

The famous History of  
**PALMENDOS**

SON to the most Renowned

**Palmerin D' Oliva,**

EMPEROUR of

**CONSTANTINOPLE,**

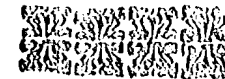
And the Heroick Queen of

**THARSUS.**

Wherein is likewise

A most pleasant Discourse of Prince *Risarano*, the Son  
of *Trincus* Emperour of *Almain*, and *Anrecinda*, Sister to the  
Soldane of *Persia*.

With their Knightly Deeds, and Acts of Chivalry; Their  
Famous Adventures, and most Worthy Resolutions. Newly  
Corrected and Amended, and most Profitable and De-  
lightfull for all sorts of People.



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## The Epistle to the Reader.

**H**ere is no doubt but among those who shal peruse this History, some there are that wil esteem it worthy a more advantageous title then that of Letters, as wel in regard of those things therein frequently handled, as in respect of the exactnesse of the Dialect whereof it is composed, which sufficiently commends it self and the ability of the Author, whose works ( whereof this is but a part ) can hardly be paralleld by any for the gracefulesse of discourse, or the sublimity of conceits.

Here are no long and tedious Apologies, but at the first dash you wil find matter of substance and delight; the Reasons go altogether along without assistance, and their ornament allowed them with freedome of conceptions, the fecundity of language; and yet that is not passed promiscuously.

But as concerning the severall subjects whereon this History is grounded, they are sufficient to draw and allure the inclination of the mind, and the scope of the matter equally incident, and naturally delightful to all sorts of people of both sexes; and it were an errour to imagine, there are some things so particular to the one, that the other cannot touch upon the same without some injury there, unto; briefly, whatsoever may fall  
into

into discourse, and under reason, are the objects the Author aims at.

All the wisdom of the Pagans is contained in those Epistles and Orations of Seneca; and we are beholding to the Author of this History for the very Quintessence of Romanity; wherein we shal yet stand amazed at the perfection of those things here treated on: and to say that any hath joyned Art to abundance, and mingled mildnesse with Majesty, or hath raised his stile, without either losing himself, or straying from his subject, that is it which in truth we find no where better performed then in this History. And if any little defects be found herein which hath hapned in the Presse, I hold they ought to be born with (they being but literals) in regard the matter it self is full of variety.  
It



It is altogether impertinent to insist further in the praise and commendations of this work, but I shall leave it to all those that are delighted, and desire to edifie themselves by History, first to read, and then to judge; and in so doing I doubt not but when they have weighed the matter and the phrase in the ballance of their own reason; they will acknowledge that it is both pleasing and profitable, and if in this kind it find the like vitility in these times as it hath done heretofore, then hath he his desire, who is

Thine &c.

A.M.



THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
PALMENDOS:

Son to the famous *Palmerin d'Oliva*, Emperour of Constantinople, and the Queen of Tharsus. Discoursing likewise of the Prince *Risavaro*, son to *Trineus* Emperour of Almain, and *Asreclinda* sister to the Soldan of Persia; their Knightly deeds of Chivalry, famous Adventures, and worthy RESOLUTIONS.

CHAP. I.

*How Belcar and Tyrendos being in the Court of the Emperor Palmerin, received their Order of Knight-hood; and how Belcar departed secretly from Constantinople: And of the Combat he fought in the Realm of Macedon, against the three Sons of a Knight that lodged him.*



So long after the destruction of the magnificent Monarchie of the Romans, was erected a new Empire in Greece, which the incomprehensible bounty divine favoured with continual happiness, placing the good Prince Palmerin d'Oliva in the Crown and lawfull

full Government thereof: as well in respect of his great promise, high and knightly paradoxes, which with high care he used for the defence of such an estate, the enemy renoun whereof brake the designs of many, that by hostility sought to disquiet him; as also in regard of the noble lineage and posterity descending from him, of whose virtues and heroicall perfections, this present History of *Palmendos* his son is contrived, and therefore to be placed at the end of his fathers travels. In which discourse already extant, (gentle Readers) you have understood how the Emperour *Palmem* so loved and honoured knights errant, that from the furthest parts of the world they came to his Court, because yearly he continued a sumptuous spectacle in feign of a Tourney, for the exercise of knightly and military discipline: And with such religious zeal was this worthy practise followed, that the Court might well be called the School of Arms, and Purse of civility. For his cause, many Kings Princes, and great Lords, sent their sons to be there educated among whom the good Knight *Fryfol* King of *Hungaria* sent one of his, named *Belcar*, and the Duke *Eustace* of *Mecana* another, called *Tirendes*; that they might deserve their knighthood at the hand of the Emperour, the true mirror and Idea of manhood, and so consequently they to participate some part of his bounty and promise.

The time ther being come that *Belcar* son to King *Fryfol* should receive his order of knighthood, he humbly intreated the Emperour that he might enjoy it at his hand; and *Tirendes* son to Duke *Eustace* of *Mecana*, desirous of the self same honour, made the like request unto his Majesty: Whereunto the good Emperour (who loved them both with singular affection, knowing how well Chivalry should be employed by them) right willingly condescended.

Whereupon, after they had performed the accustomed vigil, he knighted these two Princes with great royalty de-

Bring

Bring God to bestow such labour on them, as at no time they might degenerate from their famous predecessors. And to *Belcar*, embracing him in his arms, he said, My good Prophet, heaven accomplish in you such perfections of manhood, as each one may know you to be the son of the worthy Knight *Sir Fryfol*, a Prince so hardy and ballant, as any that ever followed Arms. The ceremonies being ended, they all returned to the Pallace, where the new knights being unarmed, rich Robes and Mantles were brought them, for the greater honour of the feast, which in the Court at this time exceeded. But *Belcar* took little pleasure in beholding the divers occurrences at this Assembly, because his mind was more busied with expectation of future glorie, which made him thus to commune with himself.

*Belcar* thou hast now no longer time to rest, seeing thou hast received the honourable order of knighthood, and that at the hands of the Emperour thine Uncle, whom the divine providence hath indued with so many laudable virtues: nor doth any thing want in the King thy father, that is required in a man at arms. If then hitherto thou hast lived in pleasures and delights, henceforth thou must bequeath thy self to travell, to shew that thou dost resemble in some things thy Ancestors, who with great labour have attained such fame and renown, as the memory thereof shall remain immortal. And if thou wilt not darken this honour, then must thou hasten thy departure from the Court, and follow the search of strange adventures, as they did in their dayes for thine example.

After many and sundry thoughts that fought together within his spirit he concluded to depart accompanied but with one Squire, and that so secretly as could be devised. Whence would he travell directly towards *Macedon*, to make the first proof of his valour in the adventure of *Franceлина*, who was enchanted in the Isle of *Carderta*, as

was declared in the history of Palmerin di Oliva. And at this time was little talk of any other thing, then of the number of knights that daily sought to win her in marriage and with her the Kingdome of Thessaly: for such was the promised guerdon and recompence, to him that could deliver her out of the enchanted Castle, but hither, to all the knights lost their labour, for none was able to finish the adventure. Belcar being earnestly provoked with the same of this occasion, which was generally reputed strange and full of danger, resolved to frame his journey thither, because he earnestly desired to bring the enchantment to end: his reason herein not to be disallowed for beyond the achievement of great honour and praise, he should be endued with so fair a Princess, as could not be judged inferiour to any. In this surpassing desire, concealed from any one but himself, in regard of his perfect hope to compass the same: three daies he honoured the feast with his presence, and the fourth day early in the morning putting on a rusty green armour, which for this purpose he had secretly provided, carrying likewise in his shield for his device, a Castle Gules in a field Argent, unseen of any, he left the city, riding on toward the realm of Macedon.

The Emperour soon after understanding hereof, was not a little glad of his worthy enterprise, which he witnessed in the presence of all his Lords and Barons, saying, So help me God, as my opinion and hope is perswaded, that Belcar will so honourably follow arms, as each of you will resolve to hear the discourse of his fortunes: heaven further and labour his attempts, directing all his actions in such sort, as no tongue may controule his noble forwardnesse. Belcars departure was liked of every one, except Tircendos who was thereat marvellously offended, because he had not acquainted him with his intent, for gladly would he have been his company, and therefore he determined never to give over travail till he found him, as it

came

came to passe very soon after. In mean while, Belcar made such speed in his journey, as without meeting any adventure to hinder him, in short time he attained the limits and confines of the Empire: and entering the frontiers of Macedon, that night he was lodged in the Castle of an old courteous knight, who sitting at his gate and seeing Belcar passe by in the evening, somewhat late, intreated him for that night to let him be his host, which he not willing to refuse, was well content to accept his offer. After that Belcar was unarmed, the old knight so well liked his brave constitution of body, his affable qualities, and modest speeches, as he had great pleasure to sit and talk with him, and falling from one circumstance to another, the good old knight perceived in the end, that his guest was one in great favour with the Emperour Palmerin.

Now must I let you understand, that this courteous old knight had three sons, by nature proud and evil disposed, envying the liberal hospitality which their father used to travelling passengers; wherefore the good old man, so well acquainted with their malicious behaviour, took them aside to admonish them, that they should use no crowning or discourtesie to his guest. Know my sons, quoth he, that this night we have in our house one of the Emperours knights, whose countenance doth witness that he is of high descent: I pray you therefore do him all the honour you may, entertaining him with chearfull and hearty good will, not using any speeches, but such as are modest & meet for Gentlemen. They answered that they would fulfil his commandement; yet their father was no sooner gone, but they concluded altogether on the morrow to assault Belcar at the entrance of a Forrest, which was not far distant from the Castle, to try if he were such a man as their father commended him to be: and being thus resolved, they would not be seen at supper, but early in the morning clasping on their Armour, they rode to the

place

place

place of their appointment. The reverend father seeing the ingratitude and disobedience of his sons, did all the honour he possibly could to Belcar; who requiting his gentleness with many thanks in the morning set forward on his journey: And scarcely had he ridden two leagues but he met the three brethren under a wood side, where the eldest of them came to him with these speeches. Sir Knight you must of necessity Just with me, otherwise your passage may not be permitted, for now I am desirous to make proof if thou be so valiant as men do esteem thee. Belcar, who stood in doubt of a greater ambush, took his Lance from his Squire, and in very courteous manner thus replied. You may be ashamed, Sir Knight, to assault any Gentleman belonging to the Emperour in this sort, and happily you may deal with such a one, who shall give you but little time to sit down and repent ye. Trouble not your mind with such imaginations (quoth another of the brethren) but prepare your self to try the event. At which words they fetched their career, and encountred together with such vigour, as their Lances flew in shivers up into the ayre, Belcar being not moved in his saddle, where contrary wise he gave his enemy such a puissant stroke with the counterbuste of his staffe, as it was too late for him to call for a Chyrurgian. When the other two brethren saw this spectacle, and being perswaded that their elder brother was wounded to the death, provoked with extreme rage and indignation, they came to Belcar with these words.

In an evil hour (Knight) didst thou give that blow, because thy death shall recompence the same. So they ran both together fiercely against him, the one falling in the meeting, and the others hap to good, as he gave Belcar a small wound on the Arm; yet being of resolute courage, he buckled with them so close, as one of them he sent to his company with his eldest brother, and the other he brought into such extremity, that he fell from his horse deprived

of his senses. The Squire that came with these three brethren, seeing the bad fortune of his Masters sons, rode presently back to the Castle, and finding the aged Knight in his chamber thus began.

Alas my Lord, in an unhappy hour did you entertain the Knight that lodged here last night, who (as it seems) came onely to kill your sons. So delivered he the whole discourse of the fight, which provoked the sad father to shed forth abundance of tears: yet did he especially condemn his sons, whose pride and arrogancy had thus caused their own death. His servants understanding the cause of his laments, went presently to the place where the brethren were discomfited, and there they found two of them deprived of life, the third likewise in very great danger, unless speedy provision were made to prevent it. So causing him to be laid in a litter, and the other two on a knightly Bier, they thus brought them to their fathers Castle, where their Lady mother met them with wonderfull effusion of tears and lamentations, as one would have judged her altogether void of sense and discretion, then any way partaker of humane wit or reason. Like seizure was made by one of her daughters, who loved her brethren very dearly, and after she had somewhat pacified her self, she made a solemn vow to her mother, never to take rest in her mind and thoughts, untill she were thoroughly revenged on the murderer. Wherefore when her two dead brethren were buried, she departed against her fathers will, accompanied onely with two Squires to seek Belcar, intending to be revenged on him by one means or other.

## CHAP. II.

*Now Belcar came unknown into Macedon, where he bare away the prize of the Tourney which King Florendos had appointed, to honour the marriage of the Princess Denila: and how he discovered himself to Alderina, daughter to the Duke of Pontus and Durace.*



Belcar riding in great haste toward Carderia, finding the heat of the day very trouble-  
some, he alighted at a fair Fountain to refresh himself a while, where long he had not stayed, but in a path leading directly to the same place, he beheld a company of Knights and Ladies coming, attended on with a very sufficient train. It was the Duke of Pontus and Durace, who rode to Macedon to the marriage which the King Florendos had made, between his daughter Denila and the King of Thrace, Nephew to the wife of Caniano. This Duke had his espoused Lady Laurana with him, as also one of his fair daughters named Alderina, who rode foremost in the troop, begutling the time in talk with her Ladies: yet intending to stay till the heat was past, and in the mean while to solace her self at the Fountain. There she arrived before Belcar had put on his Helmet, so that she beholding his amiable countenance, his rich armour, and yet having no company but one Squire: as a Lady wise and well governed she saluted him very graciously, whereat Belcar was somewhat amazed, doubting she knew of whence and what he was. But soon did he alter that opinion, and rather thinking this kindnesse to proceed of devotion, imagined her of high calling, for which cause he made her humble reverence, and seeing how ma-  
ny

ny followed his Lady, among whom he might peradventure be known, he called for his horse minding to ride a contrary way. Alderina hereat somewhat moved, because she desired to know of whence he was, thus spake, Sir Knight, abide here hardly at your ease, and for our coming do not forsake a place so sweet and delectable: you see the heat of the day is such, as scantily will permit you to travell. If you go to adventure your fortune in the Tourney at Macedon, you may ride with the Duke my Father, who will be very glad of your company, and much more my self, because my good hap was first to find you here.

Belcar humbly thanking her for this courtesie made an excuse that he could not go to Macedon, because he had urgent affairs elsewhere, and whither he must travell with all speed: wherefore taking his leave again of her, he rode which way liked him best, onely to escape unknown of this company. And meeting a Squire, that came after the train with the carriage, he demanded if he knew the Lord that rode by so well accompanied; to whom the Squire answered that it was the Duke of Pontus, who rode to Macedon to the feast of the King Florendos for the marriage of his daughter Denila, and that the Duke had his fair daughter Alderina with him, to see the Tournaments and Tournament which was now prepared. So soon as Belcar heard these words, he presently conjectured, that the Lady which came first to the Fountain was the Dukess daughter, of whom report had made great commendation. Whereupon he determined to go see this assembly, in the most secret manner as he could devise: for he had time enough to accomplish his voyage. So forsook he the way to the Isle of Carderia, framing his journey toward Macedon, and coming near the City, he overtook two Knights that rode to the Triumph: they having reciprocally saluted each other, the two Knights demanded of Belcar if he came to Toust: I come to see (quoth he) what men at Arms will enter

enter the field at this time of brave exercise. Then let us rise together if you please, (said they) for we left our countries for the self same cause. Thus rode they on friendly together, and arriving at Macedon, they found the field all covered with tents, which belonged to the noble personages that were come to the feast. For this cause the two knights gave in charge to their Squires, to provide their Habitation, which was purposely brought with them, intreating Belcar likewise to keep them company: whereto (because he would not enter the City) he gladly consented, thinking he should hardly find a more convenient lodging.

On the morrow there arrived the Duke of Pontus, before whom rode the King Florendos, as one willing to welcome his new kindred: but Alderina shewed such Majesty in countenance, as every eye wondered at her rare perfection, notwithstanding she was somewhat sad and pensive, the cause proceeding from her desire, to know the Knight she saw at the fountain, whom yet she could not by any means forget: When Belcar beheld her arm in arm with the King of Thrace, and in what costly garments she was attired: he imagined her more fair, then when he saw her at the fountain, so that he resolutely intended, if he could not finish the adventure of Francelina, to give himself to travail, and to enterprise such attempts as might be thought worthy the love of this Lady. All this while the Queen Griana, wife to the King Florendos, very honourably entertained the Dutchess Laurana, and the young princess Denisa accompanying Alderina, would not forsake her till the marriage night.

On the morrow following, the King, the Queen, and the new married couple, came into the field to behold the Tourney, where they were no sooner mounted on the scaffold, which were sumptuously adorned as becomed so great personages: but both on the one side and the other, they might behold great troops of armed knights, cheefly

they

they that came from the Court of the Emperour, who because he could not be present at his sisters marriage, sent many of his bold Barons to honour the assembly. The brave exploits in feats of arms there performed, surpassed them of greatest reputation, and among other, the Dukes of Anemon and Mensa so well behaved themselves as they had well near gained the honour of the first assault, if Belcar had not suddenly arrived, who stayed a while to behold the order of the Tournaments, intending to help the weaker part, when at length he said to his companions: follow me my friends to assist the vanquished. So giving his horse the spurs, he ran fiercely with his sword drawn, against Bellequin the son of Mossio, who did the greatest harm to the other side: and with him he met so bravely in his career, as horse and man went both to the ground. Afterward, he dealt so roughly with all them that durst meet him in the face, as in short time courage began to revive in those knights, who (in the judgement of all the beholders) were before esteemed vanquished.

Which the Duke of Anemon perceiving, and his company to grow into such disgrace, he was thereat exceedingly offended, and thrusting himself among the thickest, gave Belcar a very great stroke with his sword on the Helmet: for which he received speedy repayment, for Belcar, raising himself in his stirrups, returned the Duke such a cruel blow through the sight of his helmet, as he fell to the ground astonished between his horse legs. When breaking in amidst the press, he gave such sharp entertainment to all that met him, as the King Florendos, and the other great estates that accompanied him, were given thereby into great admiration: nor was he known to any there but the Princess Alderina, who being seated on the right hand of the Queen Denisa, could not smother her thoughts, but thus spake. What think you (Madam) of the Knight in Chain Armour? What do I think? answered the Queen, truly never did I see the man who might equal



no paragon himself with him, for that he alone hath done more in this tourney then all the other: and greatly would it content me to know if he be descended of noble blood as he besters good testimony of his knowledge in feats of Arms.

Quoth Alderina, I cannot think him lesse then you doubt of, in respect he concealeth himself so closely, and would not willingly be known of any. Herewith she recounted how she found him at the Fountain, bare headed without his helmet: and this I can assure you (quoth she) that as you confesse him valiant Arms, so can I witness him of such brave feature and complexion as there is no one absolute point wanting in him. Your speeches unto the Queen, makes me much more desirous to know him, wherefore I will send one to him for the same purpose. When I beseech your Majesty, answered Alderina, to send one of my Pages, who shall attend for him till the end of this Journey, and then conjure him in your name, that he send you word of whence and what he is: and if he stand loth to be known, to resolve him from your Majesty, and me, that no living creature shall bewray him by our means. Your counsell I very well allow, said the new married Queen, but I would that this Embassage should rather go from you, because he remembering what knowledge you had of him at the Fountain, will happily manifest himself unto you rather then any other. Whereupon Alderina called one of her pages named Gracian, artificially instructing him in his errand to the green Knight: that using instant intreaty, accompanied with a singular desire, he should gain the mean to return with his name and parentage.

All this while Belcar shewed such rare deeds of Chivalry, as having well laboured the adversary, and none lost that would confront him: he went as Conquerour forth of the Lists, where he met the two Knights that came with him thither, who stayed more desirous to note his

his behaviour in the fight. then to intrude themselves in place of such danger, and being not a little glad of the honour he had done them, in that their companion bare away the palm of victory, they rode on each side of him towards their Tent, being followed all the way by the Princess Page, who awaiting due time to deliver his message, took Belcars horse by the bridle, and using such means of secret conference, as Belcar stooped to hear him, he softly thus whispered with him, Sir Knight I would it might like you to ride aside a little, that I might deliver a matter of secreesse to you. He who was so courteous and stable as any man could be, presently left his two companions, when Gracian thus began his message:

My Lord Alderina daughter to the Duke of Pontus and Durace, hath at this time sent me to you, to let you understand, that she hath received just cause of offence towards you, in that she coming to see this Journey, you disdainned to make offer of your company: notwithstanding if you will grant one request that she makes by me, forgetting all passed ungentleness, she will gladly leave further to misdeem of you. My friend, answered Belcar, the thing must be very difficult or impossible, that I would not enterprize to obtain the gracious pardon of so choise a Lady as is the Mistress: it may be that I have trespassed in duty towards her excellency, but in sooth meer ignorance of her state was the onely cause. And when I left her at the Fountain, far was my intent from coming to this Journey, in so much as I was thereto (in a manner) constrained, notwithstanding excuses of as great importance as those I used to the gentle Lady.

It resteth now, (quoth the Page) that you grant my Mistress her earnest desire, which is, to know what you are, and why you conceal your self in such sort: For beholding your noble and valiant behaviour, she sets you beyond all other in her conceit, and promiseth withal under the word of so great a person as she is, not to reveal

it to any, if you be willing it should be so. Highly may I commend my fortune (saith Belcar) that a Princess so gentle and perfect, would deign to enquire after my poor deserts: and though I had vowed to conceal my self from the whole world, yet would I strain courtesy with that vow for her sake. Say to her therefore, courteous Page, that my name is Belcar, Nephew to the Emperour of Constantinople; and the cause why I would not willingly be known to any, is the small portion of time since I received my knighthood: And having not yet done any thing worthy my name, or to be accounted among the actions of honour, I determined not to publish the same, till I might do it with good testimony. Thou mayest also assure her from me, that henceforth I shall serve as her devoted knight, hoping under favour of her name to gain such account, as both I and mine shall remain perpetually bound to her excellency. And when I have accomplished any thing, that may be reputed worthy honourable commendation, I will come my self, and offer therewithal to her my heart, which hath received such an impression of obedience to her, as henceforth it will attempt nothing, but in her sweet regard: proof may she make hereof in commanding me; for such is my desire to be employed in her service, as were I assured my death consisted in the attempt, yet could not any fear thereof withhold me. Let me further intreat her, not to disclose my name to any one, because at this time I will not visit the King Florendos, and the Queen, notwithstanding I am so near allied unto them. With this answer returned Gracian to his Lady, who attended his coming in great devotion, so that he was no sooner entered the chamber, but she demanded the successe of his message. All well, answered the Page, but you must keep it very secret, because the Knight himself hath so desired. Which after she had faithfully promised to do, he told her, that the Knight was Belcar son to the King of Hungaria. May it be so, quoth the Queen Demisa: then is he my Nephew; and thinks

thinks he soon to be known to us? Might gladly would I have seen him, for from our infancy we were nourished together: And well may you assure your self, Madam Alderina, that he hath been evermore benign and courteous, which makes me not rejoice a little, that his fortune in Arms is equal with his other virtue; yet seeing he desires to passe unknown, let us keep the same so secret as we may. It were needlesse to demand if Alderina were pleased, when she heard that Belcar was issued of so great and illustrious blood, offering himself withal so religiously her Knight: wherefore now she began extremely to affect him and imprinted the remembrance of him so lively in her spirit, as nothing might deface it again. Thus hourly ranged Loves passions in her heart, wherein they took immediate ambush, so soon as she beheld him at the Fountain.

## CHAP. III.

*How Belcar fearing to be known, departed secretly from Macedon, and by the way met with a Knight, whom he vanquished: And how he fought a cruel Combat with him that defended the Bridge where the fair Franceliua was enchanted.*



SOON as Belcar had ended with Alderina's Squire, he minded to depart presently, fearing lest the King Florendos would send for him, as indeed he did soon after: for he greatly desired to know the Knight that bare away the honour of the Courney. But his expectation was greatly deceived, in that Belcar was already departed, whereof the King could not be persuaded, but that he missed his presence in the Triumph following, which he



he compared to the pastime of little children, in respect of the former day, when the unknown Knight performed matter of incredible valour. And albeit the Queen Denisa, and the Princesse Alderina heard every judgement passing on the Knight, yet would they yeeld no other answer, but that he seemed to be one of the best esteemed Knights in the Emperors Court. Belcar then having graciously thanked his two companions for the courtesie and humantly they had used towards him, took his friendly farewell of them, feigning an earnest constraint, which commanded his presence in matters of importance. The Knights loth to lose so good a friend made offer to go with him in his travel; but he excused their request with a necessary ventral wherewith they were pleased, and he had liberty to depart.

And riding along the way where he met Alderina, he happened into a fair green meadow where (because no lodging was near at hand) he determined to make his hostage that night: But as he thought to enter into a sound sleep, a sudden imagination caught hold on his senses, presenting them with the rare beauty of Alderina, during which passion, he was constrained thus to parley with himself. In sooth, Belcar, right well mayest thou be charged with discourtesie and ingratitude, having made so slender shew of civility to so fair a Princesse as the Dukes daughter of Pontus; full well may it besem thee to amend this fault, and by the dutifull repentance fitting a Knight, recover the note of thy former blemish. After many amorous discourses, he concluded (if he could finish the adventure of Francelina) to make choise of this Lady onely as his wife; and in these imaginations a sweet slumber overtook him, wherein he continued till the next morning, when mounting on horseback, and riding not past the space of two miles, he met with a Knight at Arms, who demanded if he came from Macedon, and if the Pupils of the Kings daughter were finished: Belcar answered, that they were now

now in performing, and if it liked him to travel thither, he should there find matter enough to be employed in. The Knight left Belcar to his journey, and so without any further speeches they departed.

But if you be desirous to know the man, it was Cardino, who departed from Constantinople with Colmelio, in search of the Damoel that brought such a sudden message to the Emperour Palmerin, as you may read in the last Chapter of his History. And albeit they had travelled many Countreys to find her, yet could they not hear any tidings of her, because she presently returned to the Castle of Carderia, from whence the Fairies sent her to the Court on that occasion, the intent thereof being no other, but onely to extol and commend the future spouse of Palmendos, Son to the Queen of Tharsus and the Emperour Palmerin, and that the Knight who should come to finish the enchantment of Francelina, might be received with greater honour and magnificence. Cardino had tried his fortune in this adventure, but he could speed no better then others had done before him, wherefore hearing of the feast and open Court held at Macedon, he went as one doubtfull to come short to the Triumphs, till Belcar had thereof certainly resolved him. These Knights were not parted the space of a mile, but Cardino met the Damoel, who was sister to the two brethren slain by Belcar in the wood, she having followed him to the Court of the King Florendos, was advertised by a squire of his successe in the tourney, and how he rode the common high way leading to Carderia, whereupon she made good hast after him, and met with Cardino soon after their departure, to whom she began in this manner.

I beseech ye Gentleman to resolve me certainly, if ye met a Knight in green Armour or no, the most traitorous and disloyal man that this day lieth: for my father having done him all the honour he could devise, while one night he came and lodged at his Castle, and on the morrow mor-

ning (the more to content him) commanded my three hys, then to accompany him somewhat on the way; but he, a most inhumane and unthankfull wretch, without any occasion slew two of them, and put the third in great danger of his life. And in this just cause I pursue the villain, in hope to meet with some worthy man, who detesting such notorious and horrible ingratitude, will (in taking compassion on my grief) revenge this injury. So well could the traytesse colour her speeches, and set so faire a glosse on her cautelous presoposey, as she imprinted in the heart of Cardino a dutiful regard to rebenge such wrong; wherefore he thus answered.

Damysel, if it be so as you say, the Knight cannot excuse himself, but that he is both a Traytor and a Fellow, nor will the God of Heaben suffer him to escape unpunished in this world. The Damysel with terrible oaths protested what she had said desiring him to give her aid, if no other occasions might hinder her suit. Right gladly (quoth Cardino) will I perform my duty herein; for that I am a professed enemy to such offenders, and shall cause him to pay dearly for his treachery. So rode he with the Damysel after Belcar, but all that day they could not overtake him. On the morrow they got sight of him on the edge of a Mountain, whereat the Damysel, not a little contented, desired Cardino now to rouse his forces against the Wyatt that had so dishonoured her. Cardino promising to accomplish her desire, gave the spurs to his horse, and galloped after Belcar, and in a great Bravado thus cried to him. Stay Traytor, unworthy the name of a Knight, and receive thy guerdon at my hand, for slaughtering him that entertained thee with all humanity. Belcar hearing himself thus insured, was immediately provoked into choler, and turning towards him that touched him with disloyalty, he thus sternly answered.

But little to thy profit will it be, to pursue me with such false and lying accusations. So claspings his helmet, he ran furiously

furiously against Cardino who met him with no lesse courage and vivacity, and breaking his lance bravely, somewhat scarred the skin of his enemy: but Belcar welcomed him with so sound a salutation, as he fell down with the saddle between his legs, so sore astonished with his fall as he was not able to stir hand nor foot, which Belcar perceiving, rode on and there left him. The Damysel seeing Cardino in such wofull plight, alighted from her palfrey, and with the help of his Squire binding up his wounds, determined to bring him to some place for help using the greatest shews of lamentation that could be. Ah heaben (quoth she) why give ye strength to wicked men against the good and vertuous? suffer not this disloyal villain to do any further danger, but rather give some miserable end to his unworthy life. By this time the Squire had mounted Cardino on his horse, and so they returned the same way they came, happening to the place where Belcar had broken his fall the morning before.

There they understood by their Host, that he was gone to probe the adventure of Francelina, whether the Damysel would gladly have followed him; yet was she loth to leave Cardino in such danger, and therefore abode there with him three days, using all the means she could to heal him, because that for her sake he was so wounded: where we will leave them, and return to the onely thread of our History.

So long rode Belcar, that he arrived within half a days journey of the Castle where Francelina was: This traytesse appertained to a Lady that was a Widow, who had two fair daughters, and a son already knighted, of no lesse valour in feats of Arms, then learned and well seen in divers other Disciplines. In this place was he marvellous well entertained, the Lady of the Castle being a woman of great honour, and her daughters of very Courtly and civil behaviour. After supper, Belcar entred into conference with them, and among many other things, enquired

red the cause that moved so many knights to attempt the adventure of that Isle; when the Ladies son, who was named Lypes, answered him in this sort. *Beleebe me sir, I have ever accounted the man but badly counselled, that takes such pains to travel hither, seeing it is so long time since any knight arrived here, who returned not without dishonour, because the action and exploit of this enchantment (so wonderfully compacted by the three Faries) is of such efficacy, as it behoves him that shall finish the same, to be of most rare and exquisite perfection.*

*But tell me then (quoth Belcar) the state of this adventure, and wherein consisteth the greatest peril thereof; for as yet have I not met with any one that could tell me the truth, to satisfy my long and earnest desire. Better then any other (answered Lypes) can I discourse the same unto you, because I have often accompanied knights travelling thither as you now do, and seen many combat with him that defends the entrance on the bridge, albeit to their great disadvantage. Know then (gentle sir) that the Isle of Cardena stretcheth in diameter very far, baying on the one side enclosed with the sea, and on the other are most wholesome Bathes and rivers, which hinder the salt waters from coming near the Castle: At the foot whereof is builded a marvellous artificial bridge, heretofore accessible for all knights errant, but since the time that Prancelina was enclosed within the Great Dungeon, there might not enter any stranger; those of the Isle onely come and go, but others not. Upon this bridge are erected three Turrets, one of them being in the midst, and the other two at either end. In the first is a knight, surpassing the common stature and proportion of men, so fierce, hardy and couragiously, as since the time of this enchantment, he hath not been dealt withal by any one, that could in ought disable his prowess, onely the Lord of the Isle of Lique excepted, son to him whom the Emperour Palmerin vanquished, when in the Journey he conquered the Sa-*  
gittary,

*gittary. He, being named Lynedes, was so resolute and magnanimous, as he fought against the knight of the bridge from morning till night; and though the combat was fierce and cruel, yet could no want of courage be discerned in him; which fell not out so with the guardant of the bridge, because the losse of his blow so weakened him, as his heart began utterly to dismay. But an ill favoured Dwarf, who never stirs from the Beacon of the first Turret, to discover such knights as come along the field, by winding an enchanted Hoyn that hung about his neck, therewith so revived the knights strength again, as if he had but even then entered the combat.*

*In this sort the fight continued till Sun setting, when Lynedes perceiving his enemy to wax feeble again, and that the Dwarf as yet blew not his Hoyn, brought the knight of the bridge into such extremity that he fell upon his hands to the ground. When running swiftly over the bridge, he came to the Turret in the midst thereof, the gates whereof being open before, clapt together at his arrival with such a fearfull trembling of the whole building, as Lynedes fell to the earth in a swoon.*

*In this trance he remained a great while, so that his Squires fearing he was dead indeed, bemoaned their Master with very grievous lamentations: But when he came to his former feeling, they saw he was so cruelly wounded as they carried him to his tent, where three days he remained to re-obtain his health; and on the fourth, feeling himself able to sit on Horseback, and not willing to make any further proof of this adventure, he departed thence sorrowing for his bad fortune. And this I tell you sir for a certainty, that when the Dwarf sits as Centinel in the lantern of the first Tower, perceiving the knight of the bridge to have the worst of the combat, he with the sound of his Hoyn renews his strength, which is the cause that no man is able to deal with him. Seeing then this enterprise bringeth such danger, and oftentimes death*

withal, I could wish that hereafter no man would attempt his own ruine.

You tell me matter of marvel, answered Belcar, and right skillfull were the Fairies in framing this enchantment; so it should seem, that they have not enclosed the Lady there without great occasion, being assured that some Knight shall end the adventure, to which each one travelles with this couragious hope, that he is the man for whom it is reserved. For can I be dissuaded from it, if many heretofore have fallen in that error, therefore no doubt of what shall happen can hinder my determination. If I happen in my trial to be overcome, I shall but increase the number of them, that could not attain the height of their enterprise, and no other dishonour can I receive. Lypes earnestly intreated him to forbear the voyage, and so did his sisters likewise, into whose grace he was greatly entred, especially the youngest, fair and debonaire beyond the other: but all their perswasive reasons could not change him; for Belcar having travelled so far for that purpose, might not by any occasion whatsoever be withdrawn from making proof of his fortune. When Lypes saw him so obstinately inclined, he made offer to bear him company, if it were but onely to shew him the way which friendly counselles Belcar accepted; so on the morrow they mounted on horseback, and came to the Isle about mid-day. There was set up a rich Tent for this young Prince, which the sisters of Lypes had sent thither by their Squires, with all necessary provision for his attempt; and in the evening Belcar went to view the Isle, regarding the Tower where in *Francelina* was imprisoned; invoking on God in his spirit, to endue him with such ability, as he might deliver her, and bear away the honour of the adventure. These imaginations so busied his thoughts, as all that night he could entertain no other, but oftentimes thus talked with himself. Ah Belcar, why shouldst thou thus delay time, and not rather couragiously attempt the execution of this enterprise?

*Enterprise*: Admit thou want force answerable to a matter of such dignity, yet should the renown and generosity of thine Ancestors stimulate thee hereto, being son to one of the best Knights that liveth this day under the Zodiack, and nephew to the great Emperour, with whom none may be equalled. In these, and such like conceits he consumed the night, and in the morning (having armed himself) came to the Bridge, where in a convenient place near the first Tower, he espied the Knight that defended the passage, whose huge stature somewhat amazed Belcar; and as he offered to step on the Bridge, the Knight very proudly thus spake.

Withdraw thy self Knight, unless thou wilt encounter fight with me, for I am here to deny passage to any. For no other cause come I, answered Belcar, but to try thy manhood, and passe the Bridge if possibly I may. With these words he gave the Knight such a sound stroke on the helmet, that he thought the fire flashed out of his eye, and so they began a long and dangerous combat, the Knight giving Belcar many cruel blows with his Iron mace, and he defending them so well as he could, till having somewhat wearied his enemy, and thinking to do as he heard of LYNEDS, but the Knight gave him such a forcible stroke on the shoulder, as he was constrained to set one knee to the ground to escape the fall. Wherewith the Dwarf blew his Horn, which resounded them within the Castle: albeit the Prince was affrighted hereat, yet he dissembled the same from being espied.

The Knight having recovered his former strength, assailed Belcar with marvellous fury, who notwithstanding held out couragiously, and one thing comforted him above all other, which was, that none of his adversaries blows gave him any bleeding wound, but bruised his flesh a little under his Armour, whereby he fought at his own pleasure. Three times the Dwarf blew to animate his Champion, by which means Belcar was much overlaboured, because he could

could find no opportunity to rest himself: but considering if he shewed lesse valour then he had done, in vain he might account his travelling thither, and greatly would it redound to his shame, if the Emperour should be advised thereof. In the end, he had brought his enemy into such a state, as he got on the bridge without any more resistance, and came to the Tower that stood in the midst thereof; but the gates closed together so furiously, that he was smitten to the earth deprived of his senses.

Lypes being glad that he had recovered the bridge, came to him, and with the help of the Squires carried him into the Tent, where suddenly unarming him, they applied such remedies as brought him to his former senses. He had no sooner feeling of himself, but he entred into many rueful lamentations, as well for his misfortune and disgrace, as also with the pain he felt of his adversaries strokes, whereof his Armour being battered to pieces was a sufficient witness. Comfort your self, my Lord (quoth Lypes) and let your wonted courage exile this anguish, remembering that these eight years no knight came to the Isle, onely Lynedes excepted, that won like honour as you have done at this instant: Greater reason have you then to cherish your fortune, then thus to condemn it with exclamations. Ah my friend (answered Belcar) little pleasure take I in this successe, for that my intent proceeded further; but seeing there is no remedy, I must with patience bear my shame; for of matters so diabolically enchanted, can seldom arise greater good: But cursed be the Fairies and their hellish charms, that deal so discourteously with poor travelling knights.

## CHAP. XXXI.

*How Belcar concluded to combat with all such as came to prove the adventure of Francelina: and how among other he fought with the Marquess of Trosse, whom he vanquished, and afterward with Tirendos to whom he made himself known.*



Belcar being indifferently calmed by the courteous behaviour of Lypes, determined to recover his passed foll by actions of Chivalry, and therefore resolved to continue in that place, to combat with all such as came to try the adventure: but to his intent he added this principally, what deeds of Arms he there performed, or in any other place where he might be employed all should be for the love of Alderina, daughter to the Duke of Pontus, whom above all other he meant most constantly to love. And if his fortune were to be vanquished by any knight, he would then forthwith return to the Court of the King Florendos. This design he discovered to Lypes, who was not a little glad thereof, saying, that he should apprehend great matters by his enterprise, because continually many good knights resorted thither. And because (quoth he) you are so resolutely minded, nothing shall make me to forsake your company, but to behold the knightly Chivalry, which I am out of doubt to see executed by you. I offer my self to accompany you in all loyal service. Now the better to furnish their wants, he sent to his mothers house for all kind of provision, that might agree with the time of their abode there. By this time Belcar found himself able to bear arms and therefore went to take his place of charge, at what time the Marquess of Trosse came to hazard his fortune. This Mar-



queste was a brave and hardy man at Arms, and although he came from his country well accompanied with knights, squires, and pages: yet caused he them to stay a pretty distance from that place, and came thither but with one squire that carried his lance. When Belcar saw him make so courageously toward the bridge, he mounted on horseback and coming to him, thus spake.

Gentleman, you may not passe here, except you first try the point with me, because I have established here such a Law, as that no knight shall have battell with him that keeps the bridge, untill he have first dismounted me: for having received some toll in this place not many days since, I will not suffer any one to prevail in this adventure, unless he bring me first into subjection. Great boldness is this in you (answered the Marquesse) that you will take in hand to bear a burthen of such weight: but I think you do it to this end, that you would depart hence with greater shame and confusion, then ever you sustained heretofore. That quarrel (quoth Belcar) shall our swords soon decide. And so without any more speeches they fell to the combat, wherein the Marquesse showed very knightly and gallant behaviour, albeit Belcar cast him from his saddle, and afterward fought with him on foot a long while: but in the end the Marquesse was vanquished, and understanding the name of his Conquerour, returned to the place where he left his company: and after he had recovered better health, he rode straight to Macedonia, where he recounted his overthrow by Belcar. At this news the King Florendos and the Queen were very sorrowful, saying they had a nephew that was so named, wherefore they desired to know what Arms he wore: when the Marquesse told them he was in green armour. Without question (quoth the King) it was the same knight that won the honour of the Journey, and went hence secretly lest he should be known, wherewith I cannot be justly offended, because both in this enterprise and knightly

valour,

valour, he resembleth his worthy father King Eryfol.

Each one in Court was well pleased with these things, but above all other the Princess Alderina, because she had bequeathed his remembrance to the secret closet of her heart, and as the dates, so her lovely affections to him increased, in respect of the great praises was every where bruited of him, which made many worthy knights to adventure their fortune with him. With whose conquest he still gave grace to his own report. But let us now return to the damosel that followed Belcar, to be revenged for her brethrens death. She seeing Cardino was indifferently recovered, took her leave of him, because she intended to prosecute her enemy. It so fell out, that Tircendos son to the Duke Eustace, who travelled to find his companion Belcar arrived at the same lodging where the damosel was, and noting her complaints, which she could deliver very artificially, he took compassion on her, promising to assist her in what he could. Demanding the cause of her sorrowfull lamentations, she told him how she had two brethren traitorously slain, by a disloyal knight whom her father entertained into his castle, and she pursuing the murderess, met a courteous knight that undertook to revenge her cause, yet his misfortune was such, as he was likewise dangerously wounded which made her grieve the more impatient. These flattering words beguiled Tircendos, as he again made her promise of his aid, enquiring of her where the wounded knight was.

My Lord (quoth she) he is here in his chamber, meetly well recovered by my pains and diligence. So sooner was Tircendos entered the chamber, but he immediately knew Cardino, for whose hurt he was a great deal more sorrowful: and therefore vowed to him and the damosel, if ever he met the knight to be revenged on him. After many courteous embracings and kind speeches, he told Cardino how Belcar and he were both knighted in one day, by the Emperour of Constantinople, from whence he very sub-

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venly and secretly departed: and ever since have I followed in search of him, yet in no place can I hear any tidings of him. What arms doth he bear? said Cardino, White, as I take it, answered Tirendos, and such as are both rich and costly. No such knight have I seen (quod Cardino) haply he may be now at Macedon, at the magnificent nuptials of the Princesse Denisa.

Whither would I go, said Tirendos, had I not past my promise to this Damosel; nor can my mind enjoy any quiet, until I have found the knight that so wronged her and you. All this night they were very merry together, especially the damosel for Tirendos his promise, because he seemed a man of sufficient valour to accomplish her desire. On the morrow they took their leave of Cardino, and journeyed toward the Isle of Carderia, where they arrived as Belcar was managing his great horse: and no sooner had the damosell espied him, but she presently knew him by his Armour, wherefore dissembling pitiful looks, she thus spake to Tirendos. Behold Sir the Traitor that did put my Brother to death, I think the Heavens stayed him in this place, that vengeance might be taken on him for the shame he hath done me. Tirendos was not a little glad hereof, because he should now make the first trial of his Chivalry. But Belcar (who knew him by his Armour, being the same wherein he received his order) was scarce well pleased with his presence, because he doubted that he was sent to find him: notwithstanding, he would make a little proof of him in the House, and therefore he came to him with these words. You may passe no further this way Sir knight, because I stand here to make denial thereof. Little count shall I make, answered Tirendos, of such as thou art, that traitterously murderest Gentlemen, who gave thee welcome beyond thy deserts, which I will cause thee buy full dearly. What would I fain see, said Belcar, if it be in thee to make me confesse that which I never thought, much lesse committed. Thou liest as a ho-

micke

micke, answered Tirendos, I will make good what I have said, therefore get you to your swords. Wherewith they gave the spurs to their Horses, and met very valiantly together; so that with breaking their Lances, they gave each other a little wound, Belcar losing his stirrups, and Tirendos cast forth of his saddle to the ground: but recovering himself presently, he came against his enemy with his sword drawn, saying, Alight Sir you were best, or I shall slay your Horse.

What will I gladly do (quoth Belcar) but it shall be to embrace you, for I have no will to enter combat with you: Alas Sir, said Tirendos, it is no time now to scoff, albeit I am from my horse, I am not vanquished. Great pleasure took Belcar to reason with his singular good friend, and alighting from his Horse, thus replied. I speak for your good (Sir) if you can see it; but seeing reason will not rule you, I am content to deal with you a little. Tirendos somewhat offended at his fall, began to strike at Belcar very roughly: but he who was loth to wrong his friend, threw his sword and shield to the ground and with open arms came to embrace him, saying. My perfect friend Tirendos, I have heretofore had experience of thy valiant behaviour, wherefore forgive thy brother Belcar, for not acquainting thee with my departure from Constantinople, yet was I assured, that thou wouldst follow in search of me.

How now (quoth Tirendos) are you then my Lord and loving friend Belcar? In sooth the error committed, was onely ignorance of you: put off your Helmet that I may be resolved; for your disguised Armour made me mistake you. So casting down their Helmets, they embraced each other very courteously. When Tirendos thus spake to Belcar. Hardly can I be perswaded, my Lord, that you would consent to such treason as this Damosel hath informed me withal. Declare I pray you (quoth Belcar) whence ariseth this slander; for another knight (who I think I have slain or sore wounded) pursued me with

the like quarrel; doubtlesse this Damocel is some bad woman, to accuse me with any such disloyalty. She told me, said Tircendos, that you being honorably entertained at her Fathers Castle, where one night you were very friendly lodged, on the morrow, her three brethren bare you company on the way, and two of them without any cause you did murder, leaving the third in very great danger.

Oh traitorous Damocel, answered Belcar, what an evil vent slander hath she raised on me? and herewith he rehearsed the whole discourse, according as I have read it in the first chapter of this Book. She seeing the two knights agree thus friendly, with the tears in her eyes, gave forth these speeches. Miserable and unfortunate that I am, what a subtil collusion do I hear? This knight is as false and disloyal to me, in not revenging my shame, as the murderer that hath so highly wronged me: But seeing I am thus circumvented, and he a perjured wretch by breach of his promise, unless I speedily die, I will cause him to repent it, and be sufficiently rebusged on them both.

So gallopped she the same way she came, and Belcar with Tircendos went into the Tent, where they discoursed together on many matters, Tircendos declaring how Cardino was the other knight that fought in the Damocels cause, for which the Prince was greatly offended with himself; and to wear away that conceit, acquainted Tircendos with his fortune at the Castle, and of the task he had taken in hand, which he liked so well, as he concluded likewise to bear him company. Thus Lypes and they two remained there together, oftentimes resorting to visit his mother and sisters, who would not suffer them to want any thing. And such was the fame of Belcars victories, as the whole Realm of Macedon, and the Emperours Court of Greece, were cloyed with the dayly reports thereof. But here will we leave these Champions a while, and speak of the good knight Palmendos, son to the Emperour Palmerin, and the Queen of Tharsis.

## CHAP. VI.

*How Palmendos understanding that he was Son to the Emperour Palmerin, caused himself to be armed Knight: And how he intreated licence of the Queen his Mother to go see Constantinople, which at length very hardly he obtained, and what happened thereon.*



Carefully did the Queen of Tharsis nourish her young son Palmendos, whom she had by the Emperour Palmerin, when he followed the exercise of Arms, and was entertained by the Admiral Alfarano in the Realm of Palmeria, as you may read in his worthy History. This child, as he grew in years so did he increase in all vertuous behaviour, being unable to shew now his royal descent yet to hinder his desire from search after his father (the Queen and all the Nobility so entirely affecting him) no knowledge might be given him thereof, lest by that mean he should become a Christian. And that he might be instructed in those heretical qualities, which becom a Prince of so high calling, the Queen committed him to the charge of the Brother to the deceased King her husband, a knight of great wisdom and valour; by whom he was so worthily educated, as he won the love of every one in general. Rigour he would requite with mercy and clemency, and charity he preferred in all his actions; notwithstanding as he shewed courteous and benign countenance towards the good, so did he sternly and severely oppose himself against the bad, so that by his exquisite prudence, and choise care in honourable causes, in his youth he would learn to manage the Affairs of the Realm, wherein he shewed himself so quick of spirit, and susceptible,



susceptible, as he woxed to be such a polittick Deconomy, that the Queen intended to put the Royall Government into his hands. If he were thus enriched with all perfect vertues, nothing wanted in him for brave constitution of body, whereof he made no shew of pride or presumption; but became so famous thzough all the neighbour Marches and limitrophes of Tharus, as the very best would come to offer him their service.

The Court was filled with rejoyt of Nobles and others; for beside the Royall Nature he brought from his Mothers womb, according to the Idea and celestial influence of his constellation, he was boyn and naturally inclined to Arms, which made him evermore converse with the most skilful in that science. But one day before he was armed Knight, a very aged, decrepit and overspent woman came and sat down on a step in the Porch of the Palace, attired in such poor garments, as her naked flesh was seen in many places; and there sat she trembling in such sort, as though her soul were ready to forsake her body. Such as passed in and out the Court were greatly amazed hereat, and moved so pity her case very much so that Palmendos came himself to behold her; and seeing she would use no speeches to him, went in again and sat down to dinner. Afterward, coming forth to walk abroad for his delight, he found her sitting there still in the same place; wherefore he called his Cousin Ozalio to him, who was son to his Uncle and Wux, for saying. Can we not understand what this poor old woman would have? Ozalio as desirous as the Prince, came to the old woman, demanding of whence she was, and if she stood in need of any thing? But she without answering one word, gave him a very frowning countenance, and afterward scornfully turned her back towards him: where, with Ozalio somewhat offended, did give her such a spin with his foot as she tumbled quite beside her seat, whereat Palmendos and his Lords merely laughed: But their passion was quickly altered into admiration; for after the woman

woman arose again, she seemed of such huge deformed stature, as each one was amazed that had beheld her before; and turning her self angrily towards the Prince, she used these speeches.

Oh Palmendos, little regardest thou to resemble the Emperour of Constantinople thy father, whose gentlenesse and sweetnesse stretcheth as well to the meanest persons, as them that are Lords, and of great account. What gaine est thou in rejoycing at the injury done me by thy Knight? I pray that the great impertious Monarch Cupid (quoth she, with lifting up her eyes and hands to heaven) may so cruelly wound thy heart with the love of fair Francelina, and cause thee to conceive such gracious thoughts of her, as thou mayest leave this idle and delictious life thou leadest, to win the honour that is gotten with pain and trabel. So did thy father heretofore for the fair Princess Polynarda, whom he loved so religiously, as with the dexterity and strength of his body, he assayed to gain the reward which Fortune provideth for her chiefest labourites; whereon imperially he is now mounted, accompanied with greatest felicity, that can happen to any one under this Hemisphere. Leave then these wanton and Courtly surfettings, wherein thy mother laboureth to contain thee, and now begin to manage Arms, which may make thy name perpetual, and yield the reward of immortal glory: for it will rebound to thy great shame, being son to so rare and so invincible a Knight, not this way to imitate his laborious deeds. And when I shall see thee thoroughly wrapped in the passions of love, I will think my self satisfied with revenge of the dishonour, which thou hast suffered to be done to me in thy presence.

The old Woman so breaking off immediately vanished away, to the great terrour of all the beholders, especially of the young Prince Palmendos, whose senses were for a while estranged; and walking up and down musing on the old Womans words, his heart was so enflamed with

the love of her he knew not, as he was enforced thus to commune with himself. What may the Lady be with whom (at the report of this woman) I find my self so distraughted? Doubtless, if her words be no fables, but that I am sent to the Emperour of Constantinople, it behoves me to enterprize such actions, as I may be judged somewhat to resemble him.

While his spirit was thus buffeted with diversity of these thoughts and no one daring to interrupt him, Ozalio went into the Queens chamber, and telling what had happened, she was therewith greatly displeased. Immediately she came down into the great Hall, and finding her son thus perplexed, took him by the hand, causing him to sit down by her, and then began to him in this manner. I know not (my son) what follies it should seem the old Hag hath troubled your mind withal; but refrain from giving credit to them, and I shall tell you the very truth of all. Adam (answered Palmendos) I am certain you will not dally with me: notwithstanding I cannot but marvel, that you would all this while conceal the original of my birth; for the Emperour Palmerin being such a worthy accomplished Knight as he is esteemed of every one, little occasion have I of disdain to be his son, and you much lesse to keep it from me. Wherefore I humbly intreat your Majesty, to resolve me faithfully of this present doubt; to the end, if it be so, I may shew my self forward in duty, in causing the bud to flourish that came from such a noble and vertuous stalk. And fear not that for his sake I will abandon you; because it is impossible for me to leave the Law wherein I have hitherto lived, for a strange opinion which I am ignorant in.

Oh my son (quoth the Queen) the Gods so inspire and direct your designs that you may perfectly accomplish what you have promised; for the onely fear to lose your company hath caused me to conceal the thing you are so desirous to know, But seeing you have heard what I can no longer

dissimble

dissimble assure your self my son, that the old woman hath told nothing but truth. Whereupon she recounted the whole History, how to have issue by such a peerlesse Prince, (imitating Thalestris Queen of the Amazons, who for the like cause acquainted her self with the vallant King Alexander) she by the counsel of a wise Magician, amantiously beguiled the Emperour Palmerin. Lastly, she intreated him not to forsake her while she lived, because her life was enely prolonged by his presence.

Great matters have you told me (answered the young Prince:) the Emperour then knows not that he hath any child by you? No verily (replied the Queen,) nor would I he should know it for the whole world. Nor can he, I think understand it by any (said the Prince;) yet, in mine opinion, I count it necessary that one day I should go see my father: But trust me Adam if shall not be without speedy return, because I am determined not to leave you, or give over (with my will) the Countrey and Kingdome which the heavens have appointed me to rule and govern. Thus reasoned the mother and her son on divers matters; and henceforth the Prince shewed himself more chearfully disposed, intending very shortly to be armed Knight, and to be called the Knight of Cupid, bearing for his Device, an Heart wounded with an Arrow. For himself he provided an Armour as red as blood; and for Ozalio whom he loved as his brother, a fair white Armour: and wore both knighted by Ozalio his father, who was one of the best knights in all those parts.

Having thus received their ower, a very solemn feast was made in honour thereof, during which time Palmendos gave away sundry sumptuous gifts: Yet could he not be unmindfull of Francelina, or forget one jot of the old Romans words, because he had lodged them so near his heart, as they were (in manner) a martyrdom to him. For sake whereof he determined to see Greece, as also to visit the Emperour his father, and learn some tidings of his

If 2

unknown

unknown Lady: for he perswaded himse If that the old Romans speeches grew upon no smal occasion. And sin-  
ding the Queen his mother one afternoon at good leisure,  
among others other proceedings between them, Palmendos  
earnestly intreated her to grant him one request: which  
the Queen (who loved him as her proper life, and not  
thinking he would have desired any such thing) agreed  
unto very willingly. Then would I good Madam quoth  
he) not have you conceive any displeasure, if I make a  
hazell voyage to Constantinople, to see the Emperour my  
father, and the good Knights in his Court: for since the  
time you assured me that I was his Son, my desires  
have been unmeasurable to travell this journey. Yet I  
swear by the sincere and inviolable faith, which the  
Child above all other sweeth to his Mother, to returne  
again with all possible speed. Alas my Son (quoth the  
Queen, giving a bitter sigh) your words have so sharply  
pierced my heart, as me thinks I feel my very thread of  
life cut in sunder, the fear of this present extremity,  
withheld me from uttering mine own ruine: but seeing  
I cannot hinder what I have willingly consented to, with  
what patience I can I will bear my misfortune. One  
thing yet would I commend to thee, if zeal and love to  
thy Mother may sollicite any compassion: that thou woul-  
dest return to the place of thy birth as soon as thou canst,  
that mine eyes beholding thee once more before I die, my  
soul may passe with greater comfort into another world.  
So help me God, answered Palmendos, as I intend not to  
break the least of your commandements, nor will I de-  
ceive you in my short and speedy return. With then my  
son (quoth the Queen) you will needs undertake this  
voyage, I would advise you to have good store of hardy  
Knights with you, that your entertainment by the Em-  
perour may be the more honourable. Madam (quoth he)  
I am certain my Lord will not esteeme any thing the  
more of me for my company, because it shall suffice that I  
am

an King of Tharsus wherein consisteth the point of my re-  
nown: as for my pain in travell, some report of good suc-  
cesse in Chivalry shall wipe that away. For (as you are  
not ignorant thereof) his Majesty travelled alone through  
the world, opposing his unconquerable mind against all  
adventures whatsoever: yet by the divine bounty ever-  
more shield him from perill & death, and as he, so many other  
famous Kings & Potentates. What enterprise was more  
dangerous then y<sup>e</sup> of Jason, when he won the golden fleece  
in the Ile of Choccos: or that of the gentle Champion The-  
seus, when he conquered the Minotaur in the inextricable  
Labyrinth of Crete: yet the Gods defended them in all  
their attempts. In my time (Mother) I have seen, that poor  
and simple ships have sailed in the sea, with great fortune  
in tempests and outrage, and at length have returned  
home richly furnished: on the contrary I have noted that  
sundry gallant vessels have cut with full sail through calm  
and quiet seas, laboured both with wind and weather, and  
at the very entrance of the Havens mouth, have split on  
some Rock, or sustained other mischance. Needlesse then  
were my fear of the sea or fortune, because (where ere I  
go) death tracks me as my shadow, and dare not strike till  
he be commanded: therefore I am thus determined to have  
none with me but Ozalio and two Squires, because we  
will travell as mean Gentlemen, and try our manhood  
with the Knights of Europe, before the Emperour shall  
have any knowledge of me.

The Queen would no more contrary his intent, but  
referred all things to his own disposing, wherefore Pal-  
mendos having sent for the chief Lords of the Realm, de-  
clared to them openly his mind: giving them this ex-  
presse charge, to obey the Queen his Mother, and his An-  
cle, whom he left as Lieutenant General of the Province  
in his absence. They all forry that he would so soon depart  
knew not how to hinder it, he being so resolute: not-  
withstanding, they promised to fulfill his command,

Wishing him a tranquille and prosperous navigation. Soon after she did. went into her Cabinet, where her hand supplying the office of her tongue, she wrote a friendly letter to the Emperour, which she accompanied with a ring, like so that she gave him at his departure: to the end that by this Jewel, *Palmendos* might be the sooner known of him.

Ship and all things ready for this voyage, he took his leave of his Lords and subjects, & afterward of the Queen his mother, who biting in her grief as well as she could, delivered him the Ring and the Letter, the contents where of thus followeth.

*The Letter of the Queen of Tharsus to the Emperour Palmerin.*

To the most Illustrious and Famous *Palmerin d'Olive*, Emperour of *Constantinople*, the most loyal of Lovers, most accomplished of Knights, and above all the Princes that inhabit the center of the earth. The Queen of *Tharsus* his intire and perpetual friend, sendeth health, humbly kissing the hand of his Majesty.

If the Heavens had so bountifully bestowed those perfections on me in my cradle, which the most accomplished Princes make their vaunt of, as Fortune was afterward favourable and courteous unto me, in adorning my head with the royall Diadem of *Tharsus*: needlesse had my recourse been to Charms or Magick (I laboured and fortunate Prince) when I sought your acquaintance in the realm of *Palmeria*. But sith by that small talent wherewith nature endowed me, the destinies granted me the sweet aspect of your love, after I beheld you with our Admiral *Altarao*: my pristine vertue could not prevaile against an invincible desire, because the same of your restoration was so enrooted in my spirit, as my former chaste and bashfull constancy, was in the end irrecoverably contaminated.

Yet

Yet can I not repute this chance as matter of misfortune, seeing the heavenly powers were so benigne, as from that ad proceeded *Palmendos* our onely son: from whom I still bid that you were his father, albeit by strange means he was not long since advertised thereof, from which time he hath so prevailed by increasings, as he hath constrained me (not without great grief, and doubtful fear never to see him again) to suffer him come see his noble father. And hardly could I yeeld thereto, but that my confidence in you is such: as you will quickly return him again, so soon as you have seen and known him for your son. At this accident I hope you will not be offended, when you consider the world enjoys a young Prince: whose vertuous qualities, and good carriage of himself, presage his future commendable fortune. In this sort have I sent him accompanied onely with his Cousin, because he thus perswaded me; that when you travelled the world, it was commonly alone, and as a simple Knight errant, and least you should be scrupulous in acknowledging him your son, beside the confitures of his physiognomy, proportion of body, and other your perfect resemblances: I have by him sent you a Ring, like that which I gave you when you parted from me, which Rings if you compare together, you will remember the words I spake wanted no relation, Once more I conjure you by the honour and reverence of the firm love, you alwaies bear so religiously to the onely Mistress of your heart, that you will quickly return our son again, that he may yet be some comfort to my following date of time, while I enjoy my being in this northern Region.

The most humble of your friends,  
the Queen of *Tharsus*.

Chap. 6.

## CHAP. VI.

*Now Palmendos by means of a Tempest on the sea, was brought to the Isle of Delphos, where after he understood the adventure of the Temple, he went on shore. And how after he conquered the son to the Giant Baledon, who held the Island in forcible subjection.*



Palmendos with Ozalio & their Squires embarked, the Partners hoisted sail and set away merrily, the Prince commanding the Pilot to make towards Thrace, because he hoped to hear some tidings of Francelina, whom he had made chief mistress of his affections. But after they had sailed half a day, a violent contrary wind arose, which drove them three days and three nights; as the Partners could scant tell in what part they were. At length this rough and boisterous tempest ceased, when Palmendos desirous to know in what countrey they were: was answered by the Master, that they were in Europe in the Mediterranean sea, very near to the Isle of Delphos, where after so long and uncomfortable weather, Palmendos would go on land to refresh himself. In this Isle the Pagans were often wont in ancient time, to come and visit the Temple of Apollo, as also to consult with his Oracle; and at this time was there thereof a Giant named Baledon, the most fierce and cruell Tyrant in all those three parts of the world. This Giant had a son no lesse vallant then himself, and after he had by force gotten this Island, he builded a strong Castle on a little Promontorie, descending so artificially into the sea, as having a huge Rock on either side, it was well defended

defended from the extremity of the water. No other port for landing would he permit in all the Island, then this only, hemmed in with the two Rocks, between which he had fastened a great chain of iron, which commonly lay somewhat shallow in the water. But when any vessel came to anchor in that port, certain villains which he kept in Towers for the purpose, would hoise them up with the chain in such sort, that they could depart no more thence except the Giant pleased; and thus would he rob and spoil all that landed there, that all those parts lamented to hear of his villany. If happily he met with any Knights who resisted his will, then would he outrage them by force of Arms, and afterward put them into an infectious stinking prison. The Merchants and others that used traffick, from them would he take all they had, and afterward deliver them over unto a most cruell death, so that all such as had notice of his tyranny, fled that place as the dangerous gulf of Caribdis.

Yet notwithstanding there was in this Island a great adventure, for in the time of the Gentiles, there inhabited a wealthy Priest, a Magitian, and wonderfull investigator of hidden things, he was high Priest of the Sanctuary in the Temple, as also he had the general administration through the whole Province: he having a comely beautifull daughter, adorned with all vertues requisite in a Virgin, and her he gave to the service of the Oracle. It so fell out, that the Duke of Fera, a very gentle and gracious youth, became enamoured of her onely by report, for oftentimes he had heard her commended, to exceed in beauty the choicest dames of that Countrey: wherefore he made sundry requests to enjoy her as his wife, but all his labour was to no purpose, because her father would not part with her. And as it often happeneth, that the Messenger who is twice or thrice sent to one place, to obtain a matter earnestly desired, will devise what means he can for the behoof of his Master, more to escape the shame of re-

usal



fulfill, then for any great good will (happily) to the party: then so fell it out with the minister of this suite, for seeing he went and returned so often without avail, he got one day to speak with the Maiden her self, whom he laboured with so many persuasions, and whetted on to join in a secret marriage. as she became ravished with the love of the Duke, and promised if his master could cunningly steal her from her father, she should go with him whither he pleased.

The Duke not a little glad of this answer. presently journeyed to the Island, where being arrived, he advertised the damosell, that he would stay for her in a convenient place near her fathers Palace, whither she should not fail to come, so soon as the silent night had brought every one asleep. But the Priest, who by means of his Magick foresaw all these practices, and knowing the place where the Duke of Fera stayed for his daughter: caused two fierce enchanted Lions to descend from the mountains which came with ravenous mouths on the unprovided Duke, and he no way able to defend himself, they rent and tore him cruelly in pieces. Which pittifull spectacle when his squire that came with him beheld, he gave such a lamentable shriek, as the damosell (whose eyes and ears were carefully waking) easily heard it. In like sort did others of the house, who came forth with lighted torches to understand the cause, but the maiden hearing too soon in what case they found the Duke, came running from the Castle as a mad Woman to accomplish the sacrifice. Such was her grief to behold her vowed Husband thus cruelly massacred, as she taking his Rapier, set the point thereof to the ground, and placing the point opposite to her heart, with marvellous violence threw her self thereon as one disdaining to live, being robbed of her love. Nevertheless, she was herein deceived, for the sword passing through her right side, she fell upon the dead corps and so lay a while alive, breathing forth many grievous sighs

sighs and lamentations. And finding in her bosome a sheet of paper, with her own blood she wrote twelve mournfull verses in form of an Epitaph: then seeing her latest hour to hasten on, with ruefull moans she delivered these speeches. Seeing it is so, my sweet choice, and paragon of courtisie, that for my sake thou hast endured this martyrdom, it will remain as a gall in my conscience, that I did not end thy funeralls according to thy desert. And that my father may know what wrong he hath done us, I will leave some occasion for his too late repentance: yet I desire no other recompence, but causing our bodies to be buried in one Coffin, he will suffer (for a perpetual remembrance of this stratagem) this Epitaph to be engraven thereon.

Forbear mine eyes more to bemoane thy friend,  
Whose peerless vertues, time, nor death can stain a  
Despise the man that thus procur'd his end,  
And hath withall his onely daughter slain.  
Ah angry fate, and Planet most unkind,  
What more inhumane act could ye devise:  
Then step between the heart, the eye, and mind,  
And pierce that vein which could them all suffice:  
But fith in life our fortune was so bad,  
To misse of that which we desired most:  
Yet now in death the same is freely had,  
Wherefore of love in death we make our boast.

This Epitaph ended, she yielded the humane tribute to nature, for afterward her body made no motion of vital moving: and it cannot be esteemed as fabulous that love should cause the death of any one, because in ancient Histories we may find innumerable of recent and modern examples thereof. But return we to the Priest, who understanding that his daughter ran forth with such a clamour, followed her immediately, fearing she would offer

for some violence on her self, and finding her dead, holding the Epitaph in her hand, he was in great danger to make a third in this wofull tragedy. Ah miserable and desolate wretch (quoth he) if thy knowledge had efficacy in working the Duke of Feria's death why was it not sufficient to prevent thy daughters mishap? unhappy was the hour when first I practised this devilish sorcery.

Many other sorrowfull lamentations he made over the dead bodies whom we may aptly compare to the loyal lovers Piramus and Thisby: but afterward he erected a costly Sepulchre of brass, and having embalmed them according to the ancient ceremonies of funeral pomp, he intombed them in the Temple both together, and caused the Epitaph to be cunningly graven thereon. Not long after, considering himself deprived of his lawfull heir, and how greatly he had perverted the course of nature very extreme grief ended his daies: but ere he died, he inclosed the treasure of the Temple with such enchantments, and with so strong and fearfull a guard, that from the time of his death it was very dangerous to come near the place. And till the time of Palmendos arrivall there, there durst not any one make tryall thereof, albeit before Baledon abused the Island. Knights of divers Regions came to probe their fortune: and the Giant himself came thither for the same occasion, but seeing he could not approach the Temple perceiving the Island to be fair and delectable: he got it by force of arms, the people thereof being unable to resist his hostility.

Let us now remember where we left before, the arrivall of Palmendos in this Island of Delphos, to whom one of the Partners told all these things, as also the horrible villainy of the Giant: wherefore he intreated him not to anchor in that Port, because (quoth he) we shall all be either slain or taken prisoners. Why? said Palmendos, I am able to punish his pride and tyranny: seeing Fortune hath conducted me hither, and will permit me

me to have a sight of him I will not depart without some proof of myself; for I be son to the Emperour Palmerin, I must not be frighted with the name of Giants who rather resemble huge Colosses without any souls, then humane creatures, much lesse strange adventures, how hard and dangerous soever they seem. If I would acquire praise and honour immortal, long time must I follow military exercise, as my father did in his younger days, prevailing against divers such Monsters, and bringing innumerable enterprizes to happy end: Turn now then toward those, and boldly let us enter the Port, without any fear of this deformed Goliath. With much ado they set into the Port, where they were no sooner entred, but they saw themselves enclosed with the chain; which sight dismayed both the Partner and Partners, but Palmendos and Ozalio presently put on their Helmes and Mantlets, standing ready for defense of all the rest.

The Giant being advertised that a rich Ship was got within the chain, commanded his son presently to take Arms, and with sufficient assistants to go and take all the Strangers prisoners; whereunto the young Wyant was very ready; and entering with three Knights into a boat, he came directly to the Ship, where Palmendos standing foremost, the Giants son thus spake to him. How darest thou, Knight, be so bold, as to enter our Port without licence? I dare do more then that, answered Palmendos, in despite of such disloyal villains as you are, who by treacherous means intrap the innocent, and afterward exercise what cruelty you please upon them; but now is the time come, I hope that shall give you with recompence answerable to such brutish behaviour.

The Giants son displeased with these words, fought with his Knights to enter violently the Ship: But Palmendos and Ozalio being too high above them, gave them so many sharp repulses, that young Baledon received his death wound at the Wyant's hand, and Ozalio sent one of

the knights to bear him company. With this fort the boat speedily returned, and they advertised Baledon of what had happened, bringing his son slain up into his chamber; wherewith he was so wonderfully enraged, that he vowed to revenge his blood with the death of all the strangers. In bitter anguish of heart, he called for his Armour, preparing himself to the dismal attempt; in the mean time, the two knights that escaped back alive, stood on the shore rebelling the Prince, willing him to prepare, for his death was coming.

If your Master (quoth Palmendos) be so vallant as you report let him deal alone with me in single fight, and if I chance to vanquish him, let him accomplish what I shall set upon and I will grant him life. On the contrary, if he conquer me let him do with me and mine as him pleaseth. Tell him that Bravadoes and proud speeches can not vaunt resolute minds; and if he dare grant me safe conduct, with good assurance not to offer me any wrong, I will presently come on shore, and try my fortune with him.

### CHAP. VII.

*Now Palmendos came on land to combat with the Giant Baledon, whom he vanquished, and afterward delivered many Knights out of his prisons, among whom were two young Princes, being Moors, who in travelling to the Emperours Court, were by a tempest cast on this Island.*



Right soon went the knights to the Giant with Palmendos challenge, who being very well pleased therewith, came down proudly to the Port, with these speeches. Which to the wretched Knight, that dares so peremptorily venture on shore, to receive the death

be

he hath justly deserved? I am the man (answered Palmendos) and I will be so good as my word. If thou wilt faithfully promise me safety from thy people. By the hallowed faith (said Baledon) that I owe to our Gods, thou shalt be as secure as thou canst require, albeit I die under thy sword in combat.

The Prince loth to waste the time in words, called for a skiff to carry him on shore, which the Partners unwillingly consented to, being loth to lose a knight so vallant. In brief, he came on land, and no one with him but his cousin Ozah, who would not at any time forsake his company. Baledon pranceth up to the plain before his Castle, commanding his attendants on pain of their lives, not any way to trouble or molest his enemy. Now are the champions covered with their swords and shields, and with such fury do the weapons clash upon the Armour, as though Vulcan and his Cyclops were at work with their hammers. You must think that the Giant being a man of monstrous stature, dealing with a young Prince, but a gristle (in a manner) in comparison of him, did often bring his life to very perilous exigents: notwithstanding so did the Heavens favour Palmendos, and despise the manifold tyrannies of the Giant, as after a long, cruel and bloody fight, Baledon had received so many wounds, as he was constrained to fall at the Princes mercy; for which Palmendos humbly thanking heaven, boldly set his foot upon the Giant, saying. Confesse thy self, Baledon, vanquished by me, and let me enjoy the prisoners which thou unjustly detainest in thy Castle, for the remainder of thy life hangeth on the point of my sword.

When the Giant beheld his great pomp so overthrown, and he had no mean now left wherewith to defend himself, he breathed forth these sorrowfull speeches. Ah angry Gods, how strange and diverse are your judgements, in suffering both me and my son to be spoiled by our knight? Now see I well, that mine infinite and wicked offences committed



committed against men without desert, hath thzowen this inyealfull sentence on me. Then calling his servants, he commanded them to conduct the Prince into the Castle, and deliver all his prisoners to him, with any thing else he should command them.

So went the Prince with his cousin Ozalio and two of the Giants servants to the Castle, the rest remained to bring their Masters dead body, and when they were entered into the base Court, they met the Giantesse heavily lamenting and cursing the knight who was cause thereof. But Palmendos made no account of her words, commanding all the prisoners to be presently brought before him, which indeed were very many, both knights, Merchants and other travelling strangers, who had long time been kept there in captivity; and now seeing they were so generally called, they verily thought to die, or endure some cruel torment; but finding the contrary, I leave their joy to the Readers judgement. When Palmendos called for the knights Armour, that each one knowing his own Armour might be armed therewith. For this their happy deliverance, they all fel down at the Princes feet, desiring God to reward his honourable pains.

But among the prisoners, there were two young knights of comely stature, being both Moors, who had not long time been held in that servitude. and witnessing by their countenances that they were descended of royal parentage. The one of them was Rifarano, son to Trineus Emperour of Almain, and Aurecinda the Soldans sister, as you may read in the History of Palmerin d' Oliva; the other was named Leccin, son to the Soldan of Persia, being the youngest of three which he had by the Princess Zephira. These two young Lords were nourished together by the Soldan, because he beheld the towardly inclination of Rifarano, whom he ever imagined would prove a worthy knight: and because he was son to his sister, and the Emperour Trineus his great friend, he loved him as Leccin his own

child

child. Rifarano coming to the age of ten or twelve years, was very forward in all commendable exercises, and one day reasoning with his mother, desired her to tell him the cause, why she went so continually clad in mourning, the truth whereof she discoursed to him, and how his father was the Emperour Trineus of Almain. When Rifarano understood that he was son to one of the chiefest Princes in Christendome, he made greater account of himself then he did before, and disposed himself to matters of higher quality, so that being of years to receive his knighthood, he requested the Soldan to honour him therewith: which he with right good will performed, causing Tousts and Tournaments to solemnize that time withall, wherein Rifarano still bare away the prize. Following arms and chivalry he still continued, and with good success won such fame through all Persia, as the Soldan thought to join him in marriage with the King Maulerino's eldest daughter. But he would never hearken to such matters for that he had secretly vowed to see the Emperour his father, whereto his Mother (whose days long sickness had now shortned) evermore provoked him that Trineus beholding the fruit of her love, might think the better of his acquaintance with her.

After the obsequies and royall funeral, as well becomed a Princess of so great regard, and Rifarano loth to stay, his mother being dead: he desired the Soldan that he might travele to Constantinople, to see the Court of the Emperour Palmerin, and thence he would go to his father in Almain. Albeit very unwilling, yet the Soldan condescended, whereat the young Prince Leccin, who loved Rifarano as himself, began to conceive great sorrow: wherefore he intreated his father, that he might travele with him in company, perswading him that it would be a cause of his cousins more speedy return. The Soldan liked hereof very well, and although he was yet very young, he gave him his knighthood: and so with di-

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very

hers presents from his father and Zephira, as also Letters to both the Emperours, accompanied with thirty hardy Knights they took shipping, and by means of an exceeding rough tempest on the Sea, they were driven perforce into this Isle of Delphos, where being hemmed in with the Chain, and flattered by the Giant to come on shore, without suspecting any treason they went to his Castle, and finding outward friendly entertainment, they were fetched forth of their beds and thrust into prison, and twenty of the Knights that came with them cruelly murdered, the rest were brought into the Dungeon to their Masters and afterward the Giant took the spoil of the ship at his pleasure.

But to come to our purpose, Rifarano and Lecefin seeing themselves delivered from this doleful life, much more then that of the slaves of the Gallies they spake to Palmendos in this manner. Tell us in courtesie, good Knight, by what means you have obtained our liberty for us may we see not the Giant who brought us hither by villainy and treason. Gentlemen quoth the Prince, I am a Knight born far hence, and being by the angry seas cast upon this Island, I determined to come on shore, where being no way able to escape the death present before mine eyes, I was constrained to Combat with the Giant you talk of, who to allure me the sooner to the battell, promised me security from any save himself. But being giving me strength, to erect a mortal Trophie of his slaughtered body, hath thereby given you all freedoms again.

Might we not said Rifarano, know your name to whom we are so much indebted for our deliverance: as for us it is necessary you should know of whence and what we are, that if we should hereafter grow Ingratefull for this kindness, the meanest in the world might justly condemn us. This young Prince (quoth he) is named Lecefin, Son to the noble Soldan of Persia, and I his unworthy Nephew,  
(Issued

issued from Trineus Emperour of Almain, brother by marriage to the incomparable Prince Palmerin d'Oliva: hereto he added the whole discourse of their trouble, which you have heard already. In happy time came I hither, answered Palmendos, to succour so good and noble knights as you are, chiefly for your near alliance to the Emperour Palmerin, whom I continually desire to serve, and shortly shall present my self unto him: but first (by the favour of Fortune) I would have his ears so acquainted with some actions of account as might move his spirit with the more affection to see me. And seeing you go so soon to his Court, let me intreat this favour at your hands, as to conduct this company with you which I have delivered from prison, and present his Majesty with them from me, as also the wife and daughter of Baledon the Giant: for it is both just and reasonable, so dispossesse this Island of such bad people, as have with such horrible tyrannies so long time abused the same. For I dare say, the people that inhabit this Isle, will more gladly submit themselves to the Emperours Regiment, then be held in slavery by such Hell-hounds. In mean while we will leave some good Knight of this soil as Governour thereof in his highness name, untill he have disposed thereof as shall seem best in his wisdom. Willingly would I make proof before your departure of a strange adventure touched in the Temple: that if I die in the attempt, you may revenge my death, and happily live to finish the same. Rifarano and Lecefin made answer, that they would fulfill any thing he pleased to command them, for which Palmendos requited them with many thanks.

## CHAP. VIII.

*Now Palmendos placed in the government of the Isle of Delphos, an ancient wise Knight named Guillador, by whom he understood the danger and the difficulty of the adventure in the Temple, whether (notwithstanding) he afterward travelled: and how he fortunately ended the same.*



After all the Knights and Gentlemen had armed themselves, Palmendos caused the Giantesse and her daughter, to be fastned with a strong chain to a pillar, lest they should offer some violence on themselves, & the chain in the port he comanded to be taken away, with all other dangers that might hurt travellers, then summoning the people of the Island, he thus began to confer with them.

My Brethren and friends, I cannot think but you all resolve to see your selves delivered from the miserable servitude, wherein the Tyrant Baledon hath long time held you; henceforth therefore I intend, that you shall acknowledge for your liege Lord and Soberaign the famous and vertuous Emperour Palmerin d' Oliva, to whom I will make present of this Island, which the God of heaven hath suffered me to conquer: for you know the Giant is slain, his wife and daughter likewise remain my prisoners, and to his Majesty will I shortly send them. Let me therefore intreat you, to continue his true and loyall Subjects, and I shall so behave my self with his Highnesse, as he shall henceforth defend this Island and you: for the government whereof in mean while, I will leave one that shall be chosen among you, who shall bear to re-

sign

sign his office to him whom the Emperour shall please to send hither.

The Knights and Gentlemen of the Island were greatly contented, when they heard Palmendos use such gracious speeches, acknowledging themselves happy to remain the Emperours vassals; whereupon they swore fidelity to him, and elected a reverend Knight of the Island, named Guillador, to whom the authority of Deputy was committed, and then they caused the Giantes body to be burned, for the horrible villanies he had done in his life time, to which execution all the people of the Island resorted, not so much for the sight thereof, as to honour the patron of their deliberance.

Every thing thus wisely and discreetly pacified, he determined to try the adventure of the Temple, whereupon the new Governour desired him, not to hazard himself in a matter so perillous, for that many Knights had lost their lives in the attempt; which made Palmendos far more desirous to know wherein the greatest danger thereof consisted, at whose request Guillador thus began the discourse. Know, my Lord, that the Temple wherein our Priests great treasure is hid is a place now overgrown as a thicket of young trees, by reason of the long time since any one durst approach the same; and in that wood is a savage wild Boar, of more cruel nature certain then that which Hercules slew on the Mountain Erymanthus in Arcadia: And when any one doth offer to enter the Temple he cometh forth of his den, and maketh him sure for ever returning again. In sooth (quoth the Prince) these news are very terrible in hearing, yet never was there any adventure in the world so difficult, but one or other hath accomplished it and I trusting onely in the help of God, will try if this enchantment were obtained perpetual, not fearing all the Boars or wilds in the world.

I am sure, my Lord, (quoth Rissano) that if you finish not this enchantment, it will never be accomplished by a-

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ny other; therefore boldly set upon it, for gladly would I endure part of the pain: and by the faith of a true Knight, I shall assist you with my uttermost endeavour. No other help do I desire (answered Palmendos) then the labour of the Gods onely, and I hope they will not be far from me, if so I stand in need thereof; notwithstanding I humbly thank you for your good will, and if I happen to fail in mine enterprise, you shall make no better witness of your words, then courteously to hazard the adventure, to recover the honour lost by me; for which cause, as also to beguile the tediousnesse of trabel, you shall accompany me to the Temple. So willing the Merchants and other prisoners to stay in the Castle, Palmendos, Ozalio, Rifarano, Leccin, and the rest of the Knights being all well armed, set toward the Temple, many of the Island travelling with them to guide them the way, and do other needfull services.

Now had Palmendos caused to be made by marvellous subtil cunning, a coat of Arms, composed of wax, and other like clammie mixtures, wherewith he covered all his Armour, that the sharp byssles and tusks of the Boar might have no power to hurt him: And in this sort they rode on together. Being at length come to a convenient place, which was within sight of the Temple, he beheld the bushie thornie plain, which made him doubt how he should get thither with his horse. Yet resolute for all chancers, he takes an Iron Pace that he had brought from the Giants Castle, and forward goes to the Temple, desiring all his companions, that not one of them should follow him; wherewith Ozalio and Rifarano were somewhat offended, yet being loth to break his commandement, they stayed, using hearty and zealous invocacions for his good success.

Palmendos making way with his Pace through the enchanted bylars, espied a Knight before him, who presently when a mighty horn, at the sound whereof the ugly and monstrous

monstrous Boar came forth of his den, and ran before the Temple gate, there staying for Palmendos, with such horrible grinning of his tusks, as the very sight thereof was sufficient to fray a man of good courage. By this time the Prince gained a convenient place by the Temple side, when beholding the cruel beast come running fiercely towards him, he commended himself to the heavens, and fell to his work. So thick a hail flew the enchanted byssles from the Boar at the Prince; but the coat of wax so confounded their strength, as they could not pierce his Armour, which onely had been the death of many Knights before: But the Prince gave the beast such such a sound stroke with the Pace on the head, as he staggered to and fro, unable to sustain himself; and following this good advantage, thrust his sword so deep down his throat, as casting forth a great deal of blood upon the Prince, at length he tumbled down on his side, when half a dozen good strokes with the Pace, made him safe for stirring any more. And although this was a natural Boar, yet had he been devilishly enchanted, and brought into that place by the Witches Magick, as the Lions were that killed the Duke of Ferie: this Boar was appointed by him to guard his treasure in the Temple, which (as you hear) was slain by the hand of Palmendos. And even as the Boar of Calidon, that was sent to torment the whole Countrey, died by the valour of Meleager, who after made a present of his head to the fair Atalanta, as a notable experience of his magnanimity, in like sort did the Prince of Tharsus, as a remembrance to all that should come thither, cut off the Boars head, and as a trophie of his victory set it on a pillar in the same place where he obtained it. He had no sooner put off his coat of wax, which was well laden with the Boars byssles, but he saw the Knight of the Horn come towards him with a huge Pace in his hand saying. Unhappy was thy comming (Knight) into this Desert, where thou must buy thy boldnesse with thy dearest blood. Were,

with

with he gave the Prince such a cruel blow, as made him set one knee to the ground, and so long endured the sharp fight between them, as they both being far spent and overlaboured, fell down to the ground, not able to stir themselves,

Palmendos in short time recovering strength, arose, and seeing his enemy was not to be found, boldly went to enter the Temple, the gates whereof stood now wide open, which greatly augmented his desire to enter. Being come within the porch, two Images of brass stood on either side, who with monstrous trumpets blew such forcible wind on him, as he was three or four times carried forth again therewith: but pressing on still with all the strength he had, he got such sure footing within the Temple, as he felt no more of that violent wind. Passing forward in the body of the Church, he came to the magnificent Sepulchre wherein the Duke of Fera and the high Priest's daughter were interred, which was so rich, sumptuous, and rarely invented, as he had never seen the like before.

Having read the Epitaph he espied the sword where, with the most perfect Damocles in love had slain her self: then mounting on the bars that inclosed the Tomb, he took the sword in his hand, and in remembrance of the accident, as also for the beauty thereof, he hung the same at his girdle determining to take it with him, and so walked higher to find out the treasure. At length he came to the Sanctuary, where stood the ancient costly Altar for the sacrifice, having thereon an Idol of massie gold upon the head whereof was a most rich Imperial Crown, and in his right hand a Scepter so curiously framed, that it was impossible to see Jewels of greater price. In the Idols other hand was a Book; fast sealed with four great buckles of gold; and in such a marvellously costly Chair was the Image set, as nature her self would have been given into admiration, to behold a matter of such surpassing excellency. All about the Altar stood many Basins of

of Gold, and before it hung divers images of silver with lighted Lamps, from whence came such a sweet smell of Myrrhe and other Aromatick drugs, and the light caused the precious stones in the Idol so to glitter, as it would have ravished any eye to note the Majesty thereof. Palmendos carried away with contemplating this sight, and not able to withhold his eye from gazing thereon: at length beheld the dark night to draw on, the Lamps in this holy conclave having so beguiled him, wherefore he concluded not to depart thence till the morning, that he might behold the other singularities of the place.

## CHAP. IX.

*What illusions appeared to Palmendos in the Temple, one whereof resembled the beauty of Francelina, wherewith he had a great deal of talk, and how Ozario with the other Knights came and found him.*



Palmendos sat down on a curious pillar intending to repose himself till the next morning but immediately he heard such a noise and rumour, as though the whole world had been in one moment assembled. Whereupon he arose, and bravely drawing his sword (because he doubted some ambush or new charge) went directly to the Sepulchre of the Duke, where he beheld a Damocles with her hair about her ears, and all her garments soiled with blood, which very sight grieved him to the heart. This was the shadow and representation of the Priest's daughter, who after she had delivered many bitter sighs, with a voice hollow & trembling, thus spake.

Am I not more wretched and unfortunate, then any other

ther under the Globe of heaven: yes questionlesse, seeing the fatall Destinies hath appointed me to endure perpetual cruell and rigorous martyrdomes, for thy sake noble Duke of Faria, the onely recozd of mine afflicted soul, for whom I have took such pibledge on me, as I feared not to offend my self with mine own hand. But who hath robbed me of the Sword that so suddenly made the sad execution of my life? Ah *Palmendos*, think not to carry it away so lightly, for that sword is yet more necessary for me. With these words he ran violently upon him, and took him as if he would have torn him in pieces: at which instant there arose such a thunder and trembling of the earth, as he thought verily the Temple would have sunk, and the four elements resolve and turn into their former state of Chaos. By reason whereof the Prince could not continue his magnanimous and wonted vigour, but fell down deprived of his understanding, as though pale death had taken possession of him. During this trance, a fair Virgin richly accoutred (whom the old woman that told him of so many things at Tharsus, had sent thither by her Post) came and took him by the hand, saying.

Arise *Palmendos* my noble Lord, and come to her, who seeing the fearfull state wherein you are, onely by fantasies represented to your eyes, do intreat you not to disable your herotical and noble courage, at the sight of vain and fantastical visions, for it becometh not so good and accomplished knights, as you are, in such sort to passe through strange adventures: Be of good cheer then, and repate this hour of your renown, to surpassse all the brabest men in the world: because since the essence of this enchantment, no knight could enter this Temple but you alone. Wherefore by good reason ought the treasure to be yours, which hath so long time been concealed here: take hence then the Golden Idol on the Altar, with all the other rich and precious jewels, and send them to the vertuous Empress your Father, And for your sake shall this temple hereafter

far be frequent and accessible for any, which you shall consecrate to the name of Christ, and of the treasure you shall yet find, you shall erect a Monastery of Virgins, in honour of that incontaminate matron, that brought the Saviour of all mankind into the world, who hath given you strength to run through these actions, that this place may be reverently and devoutly used, which heretofore hath been blasphemed with Idolatry contrary to the bounty inexhaustible, making to sinfull men vows, offerings, and sacrifices. And albeit you are not as yet a Christian, yet for my sake enter that unpotted faith, for the time will come, wherein you shall sundry times say, happy was that hour wherein you found me. Having taken good order for all that I have said, contain your self no longer in these countries, because in other climats is reserved a triumphal scepter for you, enriched with honour and eternal praises.

In vain it were to ask, if *Palmendos* was filled with great marvell, hearing the damosels voice, who came to comfort him in this austere calamity, and could so well decipher his affaires, for the extaste and ravishment of his spirit, which evidently appeared in his countenance, declared ample testimony thereof. For were these words any thing else but fuel to encrease loves fire already burning: nevertheless, seeing himself in a place so common, where freely he might hold chat with this Damosel, he called up his spirits, and boldly made this answer, O Adam, for the reverend honour you bear to your God, conceal not who you are that know me so well, intreating you to pardon my presumptuous request, because your rare and perked beauty, which is the onely spur to my demand, hath confounded me with greater admiration then all the strange sights I have yet beheld: all which, (in respect of your excellence) I hold as diabolical and fabulous; for you seem celestial and sent by the Gods into these nether Regions, where having discovered the future event of my destinies, my heart hath thereby received in-



credible joy and contentment. Be not abashed courteous Knight (quoth she) at any thing I have said, for it is long since I knew what I have uttered. and in regard of your worthy valour, I love and esteem ye above all other in the world, so that I have left the Countries of my original onely to see and tell ye what I have done, desiring you to excuse me in the rest, as concealing of whence and what I am, because at this time you cannot be satisfied therewith, yet ere it be long we will meet again, and then shall you understand more of me, by one request I must make to you, which as yet may not be manifested. Wonderfull will that consolation be (quoth the Prince) to me, that you will command any thing wherein I may expresse my forces, and in that devotion, I have bowed evermore faithfully to continue your friend: offering in witnesse of this obedience, to serve henceforth as your Knight, with promise not to prejudice the least of your commandments, so long as my stars give me leave to breathe. For will I further presse you to tell me what you are, seeing your will standeth not thereto: but till that gracious hour of commandment come, I will accomplish your appointment, erecting here a Monastery of virgins for the service of your God, and your words have made me thirst with unquenchable desire, till I be resolved as concerning that faith. While she returned him many thanks for his friendly offers, the old woman arrived who made him enamoured with the love of Francelina in his Realm: she taking the Damoel by the hand said, Go with me fair daughter, and leave this most discourteous Knight, who suffered me to be misused before him in Tharus: whereof I hope to take sufficient revenge, by the extreame passions his heart shall endure hereafter.

So sooner had she ended these words, but immediately they both vanished away, wherewith the Prince greatly admiring, was given into such a profound conceit of her rare beauty, as he thought even there to yield up

up his Ghost, because he imagined never to have seen her like. Wherein his judgement was no whit beguiled, for he did as many young Lovers do, shew themselves favourable Judges in their own causes. Now enters he into conceit, because the old woman had taken her away, that this Damoel was Francelina, she whom he had so lively imprinted in his heart, as for her love he had left his native Country. Thus compassed with grief on every side, entered into these terms. Alas old Woman, I know not what thou maist be, yet very true do I find thy words: but small to my abail did Ozalio suite thee in my presence, that I must requite with so long, irksome, and lingering penance. Ah cruell enemy, why didst thou rob mine eyes so soon of their unspeakable content? thou sufferedst me to see, that my love might grow the more immeasurable: but thy words were such daggers to my heart, as never can I taste a sharper cozative. And if this were the object of Francelina (for fairer creature did the Sun never shine upon) at no time shall my soul enjoy rest, till once more I have seen her again. Thus enter-coursing a thousand opinions, he stood a long time as given to the Antipodes, accusing himself with base pusillanimity, and blaming the old woman who had so robbed him of his forces, as he could not stay the Lady with him, by whose presence and gracious speeches, he supposed himself in an eternal beatitude.

But now is the cloudy night chased toward the Decident, when he determined to effect what the Damoel had commanded him: and going to the Altar, he took the golden Basons and the other sumptuous things, making them ready to be carried thence, despoiling likewise the Idol of the Crown, Scepter and Wark. But as he would have lifted the Image forth of the chair, he found it so heavy as he was not able to stir it: wherewith he being offended, said. And I shall no thee more honour then thou hast yet received of me: so lifting up his Face, he

made it fall in pieces to the ground. From out the body of the Image, flew a very strange bird all black, giving such fearfull shrieks and cries, as the Prince was thereat amazed: and following her out of the Temple, he beheld a great many more such like birds with her, they flying altogether with that noise, the same way where Ozalio and his Knights attended, whereat they likewise marvelling were certified by the men of the Island, that this prodigie signified Palmendos entrance into the Temple: for they had heard before, by sundry learned Magicians, that these were certain infernal spirits which should be chased forth of the Countrey, when the adventure of the Temple was finished. Rifarano, Ozalio, and all the Knights glad of this news, went where they beheld the monstrous wild Boar, and thence to the Temple, where Ozalio first found the Prince opening a great chest, which contained the Princes principal treasure, consisting of such rare and inestimable Jewels, as (it was thought) the like was never seen before. Palmendos beholding his friend Ozalio, ran and embraced him marvellously kindly, the like did he to Rifarano, Leccefin, and the rest, all of them extolling the happy star that guided the Prince: and he acquainted them with all things since his departure from them, saying his conference with the Damoysel, because none of them should suspect his love. When intreated he Guillardor to send for some skillful man who might undertake to devise and build the Monastery: in short time the greater part of the Clergy was sent for, and among them to a virtuous man of special knowledge, he gave the charge, and superintendence of the work, as also boundiful store of Gold and Silver, which was taken out of the Princes wealthy Chest. All things he committed to the trust of Guillardor, that the Temple, Monastery, and ways thereto, should be done in decent order: but he whose heart was only dedicated to the Ladies beauty, which appeared unto him under form of a bodily illusion,

illusion, took small delight in any thing else, but in her gracious and divine remembrance. Now did he hasten the day of his departure, desiring Rifarano and Leccefin to make speed to the Emperour, and present the Gyantesse, her Daughter and the other prisoners to him, as also all the Treasure was found in the Temple from a strange Gentleman religiously vowed to his service: who in respect of great affairs that called him elsewhere, could not come to kiss his Majesties hand, which he will do with all speed possible. Rifarano and Leccefin were loth to leave Palmendos, but seeing it must needs be so, they soon after conveyed the Gyantesse and her Daughter on shipboard, they making great mone to be carried from the Island. In the same ship was the Crown, Scepter, Image, Wafons, and all the other Treasure carried, and in another ship the prisoners found in the Castle on the promontory, with all things else expedient for the voyage: then Rifarano and Leccefin taking their leave of Palmendos and Ozalio, went on board where the Gyantesse and the treasure was, commanding their anchors to be weighed, their sails hoisted, the wind then serving fit and favourable, and so are they sailing toward Constantinople. As yet above Palmendos in the Isle of Delphos, to see what Guillardors workmen would compass, in so great a work as he had given them charge of.



## CHAP. X.

*Now Rifarano and Lecefin, (with all their train arrived in Constantinople, where they were honourably received by the Emperour and them of the Court, greatly marvelling at the news he heard of Palmendos, and what afterward followed.*



**A**t what time Rifarano and Lecefin should arrive at Constantinople, there were assembled many great Lords and Barons, in honour of a solemn feast, which the Emperour made for the marriage of the Hungarian Prince Dircus son to King Fryfol, and twin brother to Belcar. Dircus so soon as he was armed knight, went to the Emperours Court where he was worthily welcommed, and albeit he was his Majesties Nephew, yet he loved him with a particular affection, his courteous and civill manners, joined with his forwardnesse in arms, gave hope that he would prove a valiant knight hereafter. He had not been long in the Emperours Court, and thoroughly acquainted with every one, but he grew enamoured with the beauty of Esquivela, daughter to the Soldan of Babylon and Alchidia-na, so that being one day in the Chamber of his cousin Philocrista, eldest daughter to the Emperour, devising with her and her sister Melicia: he got such apt time and occasion, as he made his intent known to Esquivela, she modestly answering, that if he faithfully meant to make her his wife, she would settle her choice upon him onely. Dircus who was thereon resolved, desired the Emperour and Emperesse to grant that marriage: they being willing so gratifie their Nephew, as also to prefer the young Prince

Princesse: with the consent of King Fryfol affianced them together, and Dircus fearing the marriage would be deferred too long, solicited the Emperour in such sort, as he sent with all speed to make the same known to the Soldan. In mean while his Majesty summoned the chiefest Lords of the Empire, to prepare a Triumph in honour of this feast, for the accomplishment whereof nothing wanted, save onely the Embassadors return that went to the Soldan.

But now are Rifarano and Lecefin entred the Haven of Constantinople, intending to land before the Emperour should know any thing of them, because they came not in such equipage as happily he would expect. Being then all Armed, except with their Helmets, they rode through the City but with two Squires onely that brought their Lances and Helmets, they being wonderfully noted of every one, and reputed for some strange Lords of great birth, and in this sort they came to the Pallace, where very boldly they would have entred, but the guard stayed them, to understand the cause of their coming. We are, quoth they, two knights of Countreies far hence distant, and hither we come to see and serve the Emperour Palmerin. You must then leave these offensive Arms, answered the Guard, if you mean to go where his Highnesse is: or else declare your proper names to us, that we may go see if it be his pleasure you shall come in this sort before him. Our Arms we will not leave said Rifarano, because it ill seems an honest knight so to do: but you may go certify his Majesty, that here is Lecefin son to the Soldan of Persia, and the Princeesse Zephira, in whose company is Rifarano, Son to the Emperour Trimeus of Almain, who humbly desire to kisse his Highnesse hand. His Majesty had no sooner notice of their names, but (in exceeding contentation) he sent his son Primalech with divers other knights, to entertain them as bestemen, and the young Princes seeing every one give place to him that came for

most immediately they reputed him to be the Emperours son, whereupon they alighted, when Primalcon courteously embracing them, said.

My Lords, you are more then welcome to my fathers Court, his Majesty being not a little glad of your arrival. So taking each of them by the hand, he conducted them into the great Hall, where the Emperour sat in his chair attending their coming, and then approaching the State, made offer to kisse his Highnesse hand, but he took them in his arms, and would not suffer them saying. I know my good cousins, that I account my self greatly indebted to you, in that you would forsake your own Countries to visit us so far off. and that I may not fail in the use of your names, let me understand which of you is Risarano, albeit you both stand equal in my grace and favour: yet being singularly desirous to continue my love to the Princesse Zephira, I must consequently esteem and affect all that come from her. On the other side, as well for the indissoluble amity intirely grounded in our young years between the Emperour Trincus and me, as also in regard of the alliance united between us: I am constrained to love his kinage and posterity, and thus I would have you both persuaded, that greater good could not happen to me, then the sight of them they esteem so dearly. Heaven so prosper and favour you in all things, as they have thoroughly comforted my spirits, by the very hearing of my good friends and confederates the Soldan and Zephira, whose health I pray you resolve me of, for it is long since I heard any thing from them.

My Lord, answered Risarano, at what time we departed Persia, we left their persons in most safe disposition, and they by us (humbly kissing your Majesties hand) have sent this Letter in sign of the reverence and love they bear you: now for they could not themselves come so far, they have sent this Prince their son named Lecefin, in their stead to do any serviceable duty in your royal Court. As

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for my self, I am Risarano, son to Aurecinda, expressly leaving my Countrey to have knowledge of your excellency, and with my uttermost endeavours to follow your service: craving this licence, that I may go see the Emperour Trincus my father, whose son I account my self not onely happy to be, but greatly accuse my self of ingratitude, that I have so long time deferred this voyage. Lecefin kissing the Letter, upon his knees delivered it to the Emperour which he commanding to be opened, took and read as followeth.

*The Letter of Zephira, wife to the Soldan of Persia, to the Emperour Palmexin.*

To the right happy and most fortunate Prince, *Palmexin d'Orion*, mirror of courtesie, and surpassing all good Knights: *Zephira* wife to the Soldan of Persia, perpetual vowed friend to your imperial Majesty, kisseth your Highness hand, wishing your increase in all felicity.

**K**now (most noble Emperour) that the long and vehement affection of my son Lecefin to see Constantinople, onely to offer you his service, and behold the magnificence of your Court: hath caused the Soldan my husband and me, now to send him in company of Risarano, Sonne to the Emperour Trincus, to satisfie the desire they had, in visiting you on our behalf. And albeit they deserved greater royalty for such a voyage, yet would they have no other company then thirty knights: knowing that ostentation in shew, would not purchase them the more estimation at your hands, and therefore they come no otherwise accoutred. Notwithstanding if the sincere amity you evermore shewed me, hath acquainted you with the inward integrity of my heart, whereby you have beigned me place among your most af-

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passionate friends: I desire you in regard of that zeal, to entertain these two, and accept of this present, as coming from the hand of her who hath not her equal in good will to your excellency. And to witnesse my bounden duty in acceptation hereof, I vow both me and mine evermore to your obedience: perswading my self that your wonted debonaire courtesie, will not suffer me disdained in the offer I make.

The most obedient of your friends,  
*Zephira Soldanesse of Persia.*

For this gentle Letter from the Soldan and Zephira, the Emperour gave Lecefin their Son many thanks, again and again welcoming him to the Court, then turning to Rifarano, he said. I well perceive my Lord Rifarano, that you are the undoubted Son of the Emperour Trincus, because you so lively resemble him in face. Well have you done to come see so good a father, and the more so I thank God for your arrival here, at this time when we intend to hold open Court, to honour the approaching marriage of our beloved cousin: and so please ye to stay the intended Triumphs, here shall you see good store of worthy Knights that mean to tempt Fortune for the Garland of honour.

This news bread Lord, answered Rifarano, are not a little welcome to us, in respect that next the principal point of our voyage, which was to kiss your Majesties hand: we were desirous to behold the valour of your Knights, for their renown is spread through the whole world, and now we shall well witnesse the same, coming at a time so apt for the purpose. For can we forget a worthy Knight whom we met in our journey, being named Palmendos, without his second or match in marshall adventures, and I think there is no one man living, except your Highnesse, the mirror and Paragon of chivalry, that worthily

may be equalled with him. Right sorry are we, because we can deliver no better knowledge of the man, by reason of his desire to passe unknown, and therefore concealeth himself in all places where he travellith. This famous man (right noble Lord) humbly kisseth your highnesse hand, having sent you such rare and inestimable riches, as when you have seen them, you will judge that the like present was never given to any King or Emperour as we are to present your Majesty withal from this unknown Knight. The charge of this message we undertook in that our selves with divers other Knights were delivered from the cruel bondage of Baledon, the Giant in the Isle of Delphos, where we endured miseries, not fit to be recounted in this gracious assembly. Yet the heavens gave Palmendos power to kill this Tyrant: After which victory, he hath seized the Island subject to your Majesty, until you send some such Governour or Lieutenant as best liketh you: wherewithal, as testimony of his honourable victory, he hath sent you the wife and daughter to the Giant, to dispose of them as shall seem best in your wisdom. Hereto he added the whole discourse of the Temple, and how Palmendos had ended the enchanted adventure thereof. With out doubt (quoth the Emperour, being given into great admiration) I cannot imagine who this worthy Knight should be for he have ended such a weighty enterprise, it must needs follow that he is peerlesse in Chivalry; and if it be his fortune to see our Court, I shall requite him with all the honour I can: but tell me, is he a Moor, or a Christian?

A Moor born as I think (answered Rifarano) notwithstanding he well understandeth this language; and such is his brave constitution of body, as I think a more gallant Gentleman was never seen. But may it please your Majesty to send for the wife of Baledon, and her daughter, as also the rich present abiding in your possession? The Emperour requiting them with many thanks, sent for the prisoners

he brought on land, commanding the two Princes to be unarm'd, and sent them two costly Turkish Robes, which his son Primaleon and Dircens saw effectually executed, with all things else necessary for men of such calling: In mean while he sent for the Emperesse and his daughters to behold the rare and precious treasure sent by *Palmendos*.

When the Emperesse and her daughters were come in to the Hall, they entertained the strange Knights exceedingly courteously, but *Lecefin* regarding the beauty of *Philocrista*, grew into such conceit of her singular feature, as she stood in his thoughts beyond all compare. She with her sisters *Florida*, *Bazilia* and *Melicia*, (for so were the Emperors daughters named, gave them a matrons welcome to the Court, such as becometh them towards knight errant, as also because they were Princes of so honourable birth. After that, the *Glantesse*, her daughter, and the rest of the prisoners through a mighty throng of people, were brought to the Pallace, one of the Knights in behalf of all the rest, kneeling before the Emperour, thus spake.

Mighty and invincible Monarch, the hardy Champion and flower of knights, named *Palmendos*, who delivered us from cruel *Baledon* in the Isle of *Delphos*, hath sent us (with this inestimable treasure) unto your Majesty, as to the only Lord and Prince of the world, of whom he carrieth most humble and religious spintion, that you should take compassion on our miseries, and grant us a rest to our own houses. Good friends, said the Emperour, your honest report of this knight, to whom I am so much beholding, both make me more earnestly long to see him in our Court: whither you all (for his sake) are so heartily welcome, as ye shall well perceive the same before ye depart: afterward (in Gods name) go when you please. And these were not words alone, but deeds did confirm the same, the Emperour rewarding each one of them with such liberal gifts, as they esteemed his largesse and munificence equal with that of *Xerxes*, *Julius Cæsar*, or *Alexander the great*. Afterward

forward he sent for the *Glantesse* and her daughter, and to them offered very honourable kindnesse: but their hearts were so swollen and consumed with grief, as they would make no answer at all; whereupon he appointed them a convenient place in the City, with provision of all things for their necessary uses: but the *Glantesse* falling into an extreme lunacy, died soon after thereof; yet her daughter became a Christian, and lived long time in the Emperors favour.

Now are all the sumptuous utensils brought before his Majesty, the Adols Chair, his Crown the Scepter, Book, and the rest, which being well and advisedly regarded, were judged the like never to be seen before: whereupon his Majesty took the Book labouring with all his strength and cunning to open the same, and after delibered it to his Barons to try what they could do, but all their labour being lost, he said, I think this Book can be opened by none other then him onely that conquered it; let it therefore be carefully kept till his coming: Nowe all I to mind the *Damocels* words, that departed so suddenly without answer; and verely I am perswaded, this knight is the man he spake of, who hath sent us this treasure from the Isle of *Delphos*.

With these speeches of the Emperour, others of his knights grew somewhat offended, to hear such commendations passe on him who was unknown; wherefore they intended if ever he came thither, to make such proof of his valour and prowess, as the Emperour should perceive he spake but by affection. Not long after his Majesty sent one of his chief knights to *Delphos*, and with him such a train as becometh the expedition, there to see all things ordered to his highnesse use, and to prevent insurrections, if any were like to grow; giving the knight charge if he found *Palmendos* there, to request him with all speed to visit the Emperour. But the knight came short of his intent, for he had set sail towards *Constantinople*, according as you shal

shall hear hereafter: notwithstanding the Knight was very graciously welcomed thither, and the possession of the whole Island surrendered to him, which in the end was transferred to one of Palmendos sons, being a pleasant, fair and opulent Countrey, navigable for all passengers whatsoever.

## CHAP. XI.

*Now Palmendos sailing in the Aegean sea, recovered the Soldan of Babilons Son from Ocurites King of Culaquin, who rode along that Coast of Greece: And how after he had overcome his strength, he took him prisoner, and sent him to the Emperour Palme-xin, with divers Christians which he delivered from his Captivity.*



Rafano and Lecfin being no sooner set from Delphos, but Palmendos followed the speed by building of the Monastery, causing religious observations to be used in the Temple: for the people of the Island were good Christians, although the Giant Baledon was a Pagan. The Monastery being stored with fair Virgins, he would have them called the Sisters of Francelina, and many Ladies of great birth resorted thither to live religiously in service of the worlds Creator: Palmendos much delighted to behold the Christians Religion, meaning when time and place served to be further instructed therein.

Having ordered every thing to his own contentment, and placed Guillardor in Justice till the Emperour sent some other: he with Ozalio took shipping, sailing six days with prosperous winds towards Constantinople, yet first he determined to land in Thrace, because he would hear some news

news of the Emperours Court, and of Francelina if possible he could, riding thus with the favour of Aolus and Neptune, he came within sight of the two beloved towns Sestos and Abidos, when one of the Pilots certified him, that he saw divers ships and foists eagerly fighting together, which made Palmendos to come up on the deck, to see if he could discern what they were. Hearing the great tumult and cry made in the vessels, especially in two that seemed better provided for war than the other: he was desirous to go more near them, wherefore he commanded the master so to do, that they might help them which too much were oppressed. Now to acquaint you with the cause hereof, it is so, that when the Soldan of Babylon and Alchidiana understood the marriage intended by the Emperour, between their daughter and Ditreus Prince of Hungaria, they were very joyfull of so great alliance, and therefore would send them great store of riches by their youngest son, who had not yet received his order of Knighthood. This young Prince was named Abenunco, a gentle youth, and very well given, who earnestly intreated his mother, to obtain so much of the Soldan his father, that after his sisters marriage, he might stay a while at Constantinople, which sate at her request the Soldan granted, and therefore sent him by sea well accompanied with Knights. Abenunco sailing along the coast of Thrace, met with Ocurites King of Culaquin, who was son in law to the great Turk, and reputed the hardest Knight among all the Turkish Nobility: his Majesty having given his daughter in marriage to this Barbarian, he being one of the most accomplished Ladies in all Heathenesse. Ocurites knowing the inveterate malice between the Emperour and his father in law, (the more to please him) provided himself of good strength by sea, and daily came upon the coasts of Greece, sending vauntercurters with strong Brigandines before him, to discover what Christians stirred abroad, and sundry times took many of them captives, as now



he intended to do by the Soldans son. When Ocurites by the streamers and bannerolls heard of the Babylonian Prince, and knew (withall) that his father was a chief friend to the Emperour: in great fury with his ships he set upon him. Abenunco with his knights defended themselves so well as they could. During this conflict Palmendos approached very near them, and of a Galley filled with Christian slaves, he demanded the cause of this fierce encounter.

So he answered one of the slaves, he to whom this great strain of shipping appertaineth, is Ocurites King of Culaquin, and son to the great Turk, that with divers of his league and faction daily roasts on Greece, to endamage the Emperour Palmerin, enemy to his father, and those he hath now met withall, belong to the Soldan of Babylon, they sailing (as we understand) toward Constantinople. When the Prince heard what the Christian had said, he highly encouraged his cousin Ozalio, in assisting the well-wishers to the noble Emperour: so coming to the things this he thus spake.

For shall thou Ocurites offend so good a Prince, as is the Emperour of Constantinople, herewith he began to lay about him valiantly, and Ozalio not one inch behind him, made the enemy well understand his invincible courage. Palmendos knowing the King by his rich Armour, gave him such a puissant stroke with the hilt of his sword on the Helmet, as made him stagger, and at length fall down, when offering to rise again, Palmendos caught him so strongly by the helmet, as he puld it violently from off his head, keeping him still under his sword in such subjection, as at length he was carried prisoner into the Princes Castrum, and there committed him to the charge of four trusty knights. In mean while Ozalio fought with the Kings brother, who understanding that Ocurites was taken prisoner, did what he could to recover him again: but Ozalio stood between him and his purpose, still labouring him

with

with so many hardy strokes, as at length he smote his head from his shoulders. The rest beholding their King taken, and his brother slain, beside the great massacre made among them, & that they were not able to withstand their fortune: a number fell headlong into the sea, rather then they would die under the enemies sword. Palmendos seeing no further resistance but that the Turks were utterly discomfited: he caused such prisoners as were taken to be made sure, the ships likewise to be seized on as his own: then coming to Ozalio, whose forwardness he commended, he willed him to see all things disposed as becomen such a victor; afterward he embraced the Soldans son, and others courteous ceremonies passing between them, the one for his happy deliverance, the other reported what he had done was for the Emperours sake, at length Palmendos used these speeches.

My Lord, willingly would I bear you company to Constantinople, but that a voyage of great importance both urgently call me to another place, yet seeing you are delivered from the Tyrant Ocurites, and all your knights in sufficient safety, let me obtain this favour at your hands, to take the King with you to Constantinople, and all the Christian prisoners delivered from captivity. Whom shall you present on my behalf to the Emperour Palmerin, requesting that this ancient Christian enemy may be safely kept, untill I come to see his Majesty, which shall be with all the expedition I can. Whereto so he answered Abenunco, it grieves me that your journey lies not presently to Constantinople, because I should think myself happy in having your company, being the man to whom I am continually bound for my life and liberty: and hereof I am assured, that over and above your gracious welcome, you shall win the honour of the famous triumph, obtained by the Emperour at the marriage of my sister with the Prince of Hungaria.

And heartily sorry I am, answered Palmendos, that I cannot



cannot be present in so worthy an assembly: whereof at this time you may well excuse me, not doubting but I shall come with some sufficient amends for my stay. These speeches he uttered, his thoughts being far otherwise, for so soon as he heard of the Jousts at Constantinople he determined to go thither secretly without making himself known to any; but as a strange knight to adventure his fortune among them: wherefore he departed from Abenunco who offered him many rich presents for his great kindness, yet would not he accept of any. Abenunco returned him many thanks chiefly for his promise, that he would in short time blisse the Emperour in person: so after many courteous speeches, and sundry familiar farewells, *Palmendos* commanded his Pilot to lanch into the high Seas; for that he intended another kind of course.

## CHAP. XII.

*Now Abenunco arrived at Constantinople, whose coming greatly rejoiced the Emperour, but much more his Sister Esquivela. And how Lynedes Lord of the Isle of Lique, and the County of Pelada his cousin, came to Joust against the Knights of the Court, attending the Tourney for the marriage of Ditreus.*



Mostly did Abenunco commend his fortune; in finding so good succour at a time of such necessity, and all the knights in his company held opinion, that *Palmendos* was the onely flower of Chivalry; but above all other the Christian Slaves, accounting their deliverance for a miracle, imagined the anchor thereof was some great friend to the Emperour.

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In this joy they sailed till they came to Constantinople, where his Majesty being advertised that the Soliman son was arrived, commanded *Primaleon*, *Ditreus*, and many of his best Barons to go and conduct him to the Court. In the mean while Abenunco cloathing himself most sumptuously, caused the King *Ocures* and the Christian prisoners to be carried on horse, that he might not fall in the charge given him by *Palmendos*: So the Babylonian Prince riding to the Court, with all the prisoners going orderly before him he gave charge to one of his chiefest knights, that he should present them to his Majesty; and being come into the Emperours presence, the knight delivered these speeches.

High and mighty Monarch of the world, behold here the King of Culaquin, son to the great Turk, who keeping the seas with a great power to endamage your Empire; our Master the Prince Abenunco and we fell into his danger: from which a worthy knight, named *Palmendos*, by deeds of rare and haughty Chivalry delivered us in a time most needfull, and therefore hath sent both us and him to your excellency, desiring that *Ocures* should be safely kept till he come himself. These sundry good turns received from a knight unknown, drove the Emperour into a wonderful admiration; and because he could not imagine whence they should proceed, therefore he was the more desirous to behold the knight: whereupon he committed the King to a strong Tower, commanding he should have all things necessary for his health, and a Page to attend on him lest he should offend himself.

But now is Abenunco by *Primaleon* and the other Princes brought to the Emperour, who embracing him very honourably in his arms, gave him such entertainment as becomed his estate and because he was not yet knighted, he willed that he should be befellow to his son *Primaleon*, which united a faithfull League of Amity between them, hoping one day to travel as companions in Arms

Alz

together

together. Abenunco having likewise told the Emperor of his good success and wonderfull deliverance by the means of *Palmendos*, gave no little contentment to *Risario* and *Lecefin*, who imagined themselves as much beholding to the Prince as any. Afterward he was conducted to the Emperors chamber, where she and her Ladies graciously welcomed him, but especially the Princess *Esquivela* his sister, because he came to confirm what she most desired. The Lord and brother (quoth she) nothing could happen to my greater contentment, then to have your presence in the honour prepared for me; whereto seeing our gracious parents could not come, they have for my sake sent you in their place: and doubt not but your entertainment shall be such as shall agree with their expectation and your own worthiness. Fair sister (answered Abenunco) the boldness of my father hearing of the honour the Emperor intended, by giving you in marriage to the Prince *Ditreus* his nephew, hath sent me to thank the Emperor on his behalf, offering for this contract to articulate with his Majesty, in all such things as with honour he shall demand. As for our gracious mother, *Alchidiana*, she hath sent you by me jewels and treasure befitting your degree, that on your marriage day you may witness the royal race from whence you are descended; not doubting but before you depart this court, to make the magnificence of the Babylonian Prince so famous, as the most opulent Lord of Asia shall not compare therewith.

Others other speeches passed between the brother and the sister, till the coffers of treasure were brought and delivered to the Princess; which when *Ditreus* beheld, he judged them to exceed the limits of all fragility, & might well well besem the greatest state in Christendome. Now by the Emperors cause the Journey to be openly proclaimed, and the fifth day following the marriage was solemnized, great store of worthy knights resorting day by day to the Court, that all the field appointed for triumphs was

was covered over with tents. Among other came thither *Lynedes*, the Lord of *Lique*, he that hazarded himself so far in the adventure of *Francelina*, being (in sooth) reputed one of the most valiant men at Arms in all Greece; and the renown of this marriage drew him from his Castle, accompanied onely with the Count of *Pelada*, his cousin who albeit he was younger then *Lynedes*, yet was he thought little inferiour to him in Chivalry. This Count had espoused a Lady of great parentage and loved her with such singular affection, as he brought her in company to see the Jests at Constantinople.

Being there arrived, they would not enter the City, but set up their Tent far distant from all the rest, and afterward sent a Squire to the Court, to publish that whosoever would hazard himself in the Journey, should find two knights there ready in the field, that would Joust with any one that durst enter the Lists; such therefore as were minded to make proof of their valour, might be entertained for three or four courses. These speeches being heard by the Duke of *Pera*, he went to the Squire, and thus answered.

You may (my friend) return to your Masters, and say, that such as are minded to Joust, will not stay long before they enter the field. When turning to the knights of the Court, he proceeded in this manner. Doubtlesse these knights are valiant and hardy, that are loth to shew themselves slothfull in any vertuous exercise. With this answer the Squire returned back to the Tent, and the two Cousins being satisfied therewith, prepared strong Lances at the entrance of their Babilon, for all such as should come to Joust against them: But the Count intreated *Lynedes* to suffer him to make the first trial of his fortune, which he did in regard of his love to his Lady, who had caused the Tent to be so commodiously placed, as she might at pleasure behold all the pastimes, docting her self in most gorgeous attyre, and bravely attended on by her waiting women.

woman to out countenance such as came against her Lord and husband.

The Emperour understanding what message the Squire had brought, imagined that these two Knights were *Palmendos* and his Cousin *Ozario*; for when one thing continually beateth on a mans conceit, he imagineth every thing conformable to the same. Wherefore he told his opinion to the Prince *Rifarano*, who could not think them to be the Lords of *Tharus*, yet to satisfy the Emperours mind, he mounted on horseback, and being accompanied with other Knights of the Court, rode to the Tent, where the two Cousins remained. Saluting the Squires, he entered, finding *Lynedes* unarmed, but his Cousin was provided at all points except his helmet: whereupon he demanded if they were the Knights that sent the challenge to the Court? To whom the Lord of *Lique* answered, that they were. Then *Rifarano* proceeded thus. Gentlemen, ye have attempted a thing (in my opinion) but little for your ease: but I think you did it to this end, that you might meet with some one to abate your pride and presumption.

When that cometh to passe (answered *Lynedes*) we shall but accompany many others, who unable to effect their haughty enterprizes, have remained frustrate in their designs: in vain therefore shall you take any further care for our affairs; but if you will go arm your self, return and prove what this Knight can do, who is more desirous to fight with his sword then with his tongue; otherwise you offer injury to the order, which every noble mind preferreth as his proper life. *Rifarano* somewhat moved with these words, took his leave, and returned to the Emperour, assuring him that these Knights were not *Palmendos* and *Ozario*, notwithstanding they seemed good and hardy champions descended of some great birth, in that they were so worthily accompanied. With women of chaste and Anglour beauty, as also Gentlemen of civil behaviour. Hereupon

upon many Knights jousted with the Countie, who still bare away the honour of the field, *Lynedes* all this while not arming himself, for the worthy successe of his cousin deserved high commendation, whereof his Lady was not a little proud, to see her husband perform such chivalry. *Rifarano* and *Leccin* envying the Counties glory, intended to see how they should speed in the joust, yet they desired to defer it till the last day, when they vanquishing the Countie and *Lynedes* his cousin, might bear away the whole praise of the Triumph: but others came in the mean time and altered their intent, as you at large shall perceive hereafter.

### CHAP. XIII.

*How Arnedes Sonne to the King of France, and Recinde his Cousin, Sonne to the King of Castile, came to Constantinople, where Arnedes vanquished Lynedes and his cousin in the Joust, by which occasion they were greatly honoured of the Emperour.*



The King of France, father to Lewis Duke of Burgundy, being at the extreme point of his life, among other things remembered, that when the peace was concluded between the Emperour *Palmerin* and him, they determined upon an alliance by marriage, if God granted them issue whereby to do it: to the end that in the herolical house of France, sons and daughters might be nourished, proceeding from such worthy Ancestors, as the like might not be found through the whole world.

For this cause, when the time likewise should conveniently agree therewith, he commanded his son to remember the

the Emperour of his promise; which Prince Lewis promising his dying father to perform, with exceeding sorrow accomplished his funerals, and making choice afterward for his own fancy, in hope to fulfill his fathers desire in his issue, he married with the daughter to the King of Castile, by whom he had three sons, and two daughters that were born at a birth. His eldest son was named Arnedes, whose mind was cherishe given to arms and military discipline, wherein time and use made him so expert, as he was esteemed the onely champion of France: it came so to passe, as the King of France married one of his daughters with the King of Sicily, at whose marriage Arnedes won such fame by his chivalry, as the report of him was blazed throughout many provinces. As this marriage likewise came one of his cousins son to the King of Castile, and named Recinde, who conceived so good liking of Arnedes behaviour, that they swore an inviolable league of amity between them, that they should never forsake each others company in matters of arms: wherewith the Queen was highly contented, because she loved her cousin Recinde with intire affection.

King Lewis seeing his son Arnedes of years to have a wife, and fearing he should elsewhere dispose his liking, one day called him into his chamber, and thus conferred with him. My son such is the natural inclination of my love towards thee, as I would not wish any thing to thee, but to have thee as well contented therewith as my self: to this end I use these speeches, for that our late Kingly father of famous memory, at the very shutting up of his latest days, gave me charge to join thee in marriage with the Emperours daughter of Constantinople, that such issue (as no doubt) shall proceed from you both may somewhat resemble their famous Ancestors. Wherefore I am determined, right soon to send an Embassage to him to sollicite this marriage, which I hope he will like well of, and this I can assure thee, if fame tell no lessings that the Princess Philocrista now aged sixteen years, is a Lady of such rare and

and singular beauty, as nature hath not framed her like under the moving of these eight Spheres.

When the Prince Arnedes saw that his father talked so courteously with him about these affairs, he humbly intreated him not to trabel any further in the matter, for there was time enough hereafter to deal in such occasions: wherewith the King pacified him, because he saw his son so cold (as he thought) in matter of marriage, nor would he trouble him any more therewith afterward. But the young Prince wise and advised in concealing his own desires, having long before heard fair Philocrista commended beyond compare, as also the deeds of the knights in the Emperour Palmerins Court, he had no leisure now to forget them his remembrance, so that soon would he compass a secret journey to Constantinople, intending if the Princess pleased to demand her of the Emperour in marriage, and if his Majesty would not consent thereto, he intended to do such exploits in Greece, as the honourable praise of them should compass his love. This was the project of Arnedes resolution, which in secret he imparted to his cousin Recinde, who with mighty persuasions animated him herein: vowing that till death they would loyally continue friendly companions, and so well govern themselves by disguising their persons, and contravening their languages in these affairs, as the most skillfull head should not search the depth of their intent. When the two cousins were thus determined, Arnedes imagining it no wisdom to juggle with his father, went and requested a favour at his Highness hand the effect whereof was this.

Gracious Lord and Father, quoth he, my desire is (without your displeasure) that I may go see the Princess Philocrista, as well to like as love before any motion of marriage: and because my cousin Recinde will bear me company, I would have your Majesty so perswaded, that in secret disguising we will passe unknown of any, much lesse give occasion of suspect what we are, not doubting but by our

Worshippous behaviour, to yield you content by our voyage, and our selves good report. Beside, the world is well acquainted therewith that this Emperour of Constantinople, had not won such fame and renown, but onely by the innumerable Trophies, erected in divers regions of his youth, full travells, which are examples sufficient for Knights of high degree, not to desist from worthy enterprises for the object of death, who without regard of time or place, pursue in amply the steps of the worthiest. For let doubt of our stay in Greece hinder us, good father; for as we go not to build any dwelling there, so is the hope of our return to be expected more speedy. It greatly displeaseth me, answered the King, that I have promised to mine own discontentment, and which much more will redound to your disadvantage; but seeing I have past my word, and in this sort you mean personally to visit Greece, go in Gods name, who guide and send you safely home again, else will your stay more hurt me then can you imagine.

Humbly taking his leave of the King, because he would not have his departure known, he secretly got him to Marseilles, accompanied with none but his cousin Recinde, his dwarf and three other, where finding a ship ready they hoisted sail and away, landing at the first port they came to in Greece, and commanding the ship to stay for them at Constantinople. One day Arnedes and Recinde rested themselves where they landed, and the next day rode forward on their journey, understanding by the way brave triumphs were obtained at the Court, which pleasing them not a little, they made such diligent speed, as they arrived there three daies before the sports were ended, even at the very instant, when the Count had vanquished another Knight in the Joust. Arnedes beholding the brave behaviour of the Conquerour, and that the Knights made dainty who should try his fortune next, noting beside the honourable assembly there present with the Emperour (who marvelled what these two new come Knights should be, untill he

had.

had advisedly marked their Arms, when immediately he judged them to be Frenchmen) gave the spurs to his horse and ran against the Count, each of them breaking their staves gallantly without any further danger. At the second course the Count was unhorsed by Arnedes, whereat the Emperour and his Lords very much rejoiced, highly commending the behaviour of the French Knight. Needs must we think, that Lynedes was offended seeing his cousin thrown so furiously to the ground, wherefore arming himself speedily and mounting on horseback, with a very strong lance he angerly encountered Arnedes, who gave his enemy as good as he brought. Lynedes was very cholerick that he had sped no better, whereupon at the second race, Arnedes met him so full in the carrier, as he cast him out of his saddle over the crupper of his horse: he thinking to recover him self, and leth to forsake the reins of his bridle, caused his horse to fall backwards upon him, that he was the worse for this long time after. But Arnedes he remained fresh and frolick, as though he had yet done nothing at all, wherefore he came to his companion, saying.

Now let us go kiss my Lord the Emperours hand, seeing there is no more to be done here: and so in the troop they withdrew themselves, early one marvelling at this Frenchmans valour, because they knew Lynedes was accounted one of the hardest Knights in Greece. When the Emperour saw them coming toward him, he advanced himself to entertain them, and embracing them graciously in his arms, said, Right welcome are you Gentlemen into this Country, where you have exceedingly contented me by your fortunate successe: let me therefore know of whence and what you are, that I may love and esteem you accordingly.

It is the wonted grace and vertue of your Majesty answered Arnedes, that makes you evermore regard poor travelling Knights, although there be nothing equivalent



quivalent; the renown whereof spreading through all Kingdoms, caused us to forsake France, to come and offer you our service. We are, my Lord, knights attending on the King of France, where hearing the daily report, what magnificent Chivalry was here continually exercised; we came (so please it your Majesty) to live in your Court, as men willing to learn the rules of Martial Discipline, not doubting but to gain such grace, as shall satisfy the desire that moved us hereto. I thank you (answered the Emperor) for the pain you have endured in this journey, which amply declares the generosity of your brave minds; because such principles cannot proceed but from a haughty and resolute courage. With these words (for this day) he returned to the Palace, commanding Arnedes to go on his right hand, and Recinde on his left, they both marveling to see the goodly train of knights that attended on the Emperor.

All the way his Majesty eyed Arnedes very much, imagining he saw the lively countenance of Lewis Duke of Burgundy, and therefore desired to know his name and parentage, telling him whom he resembled in many points. In truth, my Lord, answered the French Prince, it doth not become me to dally with your Majesty: I am King Lewis his eldest son, therefore I am the more like to him. And for his sake, said the Emperor, must I needs love you the more, because heretofore I received by him and his brother great honour. Yet because he perceived that Arnedes was unwilling to be known, he cut off these speeches; & being come to the Palace, after the Princes were both unmarried, he welcomed them as bestowed their estates.

Primalcoch daily accompanied Arnedes and Recinde, because his father had so commanded him; yet could not the French Prince but marvel, that all this while he might not see Philocrita, the cause whereof was, the Ladies were loath to be seen till Dircus Wedding day, when each one would surpass in bravery, till which time he was glad and

and fain to hold himself contented. Now had Bruquell his Dwarf leisure to get acquaintance with Rosdeno, Primalcoch's Dwarf, for they were both of like stature and quality, and therefore their familiarity was not long in breeding. Lynedes and the Count displeased with their hard fortune, yet they were in hope to recover their foil at the marriage Journey, which made their griefs the better pacified, now leave we them a while to speak somewhat of the Princes of Thartus.

### CHAP. XIII.

*How Palmendos and Ozalio landed four daies journey from Constantinople, from whence they parted after they had changed their Armour: and how by the way they lodged in the house of an ancient Knight, of whom Palmendos heard the discourse of the adventure of Francelina, and what they did afterwards.*



Our gentle Knight Palmendos, merrily sailed on, hoping in short time to content his earnest desires, and having left Abenunco by Seltos and Abidos, he commanded his Pilot to strike to the nearest port for Constantinople, so with favourable wind and weather they came to Saint Lordin, which is a maritime City, four daies journey from Constantinople. There he and Ozalio went on shore, onely to change their armour and Shields because they would gladly escape unknown: and having made a quick dispatch, they rode till they came to the house of an ancient Knight, poor in goods, but noble of heart and person, who invited them friendly to be his guests, and there were they right courteously entertained,



certained, though not with dainty and delicate blands, yet with insufferent good chear, and kind humanity, which especially proceeded from the Knights wife and her faire daughter, who diligently noted the behaviour of these Knights. Such was the countenance of the young Damo- sel, as by the continual office of her eyes, her heart began to be somewhat touched, and saie would she participate of the pleasure her mind conceived; whereto *Palmendos* likewise was somewhat provoked, seeing his eyes over-buffed with bathing in the flood of delight, which the presence of this Damo- sel onely procured.

All supper time these quaint glances endured, when among other talk they had together, the old Knight demanded of his guests if they travelled to the Tourney at Constantinople; for yesterday (quoth he) came I thence, not a little marvelling to see the number of Knights come thither from all Countreys. Herewith he discoursed the success of *Armedes* against the County of *Pelada* and his cousin, and how the two Frenchmen continued Masters of the field. But can none in the Emperours Court (quoth *Palmendos*) where are such Noze of vallant Gentlemen, out go those French cousins in deeds of Arms? Truly Sir, answered the old Knight, it is a matter much to be marvelled; neverthelesse I think if *Belcar* son to the King of *Hungaria*, and brother to the Bridegroom that shal be, could come thither, he would dispossesse the French men of the victory they have gotten of County and Lynedes, considering what fame is daily bruited abroad of him, for his rare prowess in guarding the adventure of *Francelina*. And since the time of his famous attempt, no Knight hath there arrived in hope to end the enchantment, but *Belcar* evermore hath been his conquerour, yet *Francelina* continueth in the Castle of the Fairies still, and shall till some Knight (more fortunate then *Belcar*) can get her forth, notwithstanding he hath vowed no one shall do it, seeing himself hath failed in the trial except he first surpasse him in valor and prowess.

*Palmendos*

*Palmendos* hearing the name of *Francelina*, was assailed with such a sudden and vehement passion, proceeding from the unquenchable flame, whereto his heart lay burning for her love as his countenance altered, and his very soul was touched with the word *Francelina*. Wherefore most instantly he desired the Knight his Host, to tell him of what race the Lady was descended, and (withall) to proceed in discourse of the adventure, which so many words the Knights had lost their labours about: likewise to tell him, in what Country the Castle was, where the Fairies had appointed this enchantment, because he had sundry times heard speeches thereof, yet could not meet with any one to resolve him of the truth.

Know then good Sir, answered the old Knight, that this Lady is one of the fairest and most gracious Princesses that this earthly habitation enfotes, between the two Tropiques of Heaven, Daughter to the King of *Theffaly*, now prisoner to the great Turk. She being taken forth of her Cradle, and inclosed in the Castle of *Carderia*, by the three enchanting Sisters of the Island, because they foresaw by their Magicall Art, that her Father (who was their noble Friend) never could be delivered from the captivity of the Infidels, but by the means of some perfect accomplished Knight. Thus did they direct this enchantment, that the readinesse of *Francelinas* beauty, might be blazed by them through all Regions, and desire to gain the Kingdome of *Theffaly* (for he that shall deliver the Lady must enjoy her as his wife, next heir after the death of the captive King) might incourage Knights to come probe this adventure: whether many have gone in hope of happy conquest, as the aforesaid Prince *Belcar* did, but he wants strength as sundry other have done, yet will he make the access to the Princess more difficult, untill he for whom the Princess is destined, arrive there with such puissance and magnanimity, as shall enforce him to forsake the place. Many other things as

concerning

concerning the history of *Francelina* (already set down in the Book of *Palmerino d'Oliva*) to the old Knight recount to the Prince *Palmerinos*, who having with great attention noted all was stricken mute and much amazed: for so was his spirit carried away with new and others thoughts, that he could not tell what to do or say. Now he remembers the old Romans words, and saw there was some likelihood of truth in them, thinking because she had spoken so much of *Francelina*, that she was one of the *Fiadas* which framed this Enchantment: the end and abolishing whereof he thought was reserved for him onely. Comparing all passed conjunctures together, which made his heart conceive incredible joy, and thus often to parley with himself.

Alas *Palmerinos* well mightest thou account thyself favoured of the stars and fortune, if thou couldst conquer a Lady of so rare and perfect beauty, and thereby attain the Kingdom of *Thessaly*, adjoining to the confines of the Lord and Fathers Empire. Such was his inward joy conceived by these news, in hearing her spoken of whom his heart most of all honoured, as he said to the old Knight. When you understand, gentle Sir, that *Palmerinos* is come to the Emperours Court, let me intreat you to travel thither, and there shall I cause him to requite the courtesie, which we being Strangers have here received. When commanded he one of his Squires to bring a great bag of Gold and Jewels which he put up on the Table, giving the old Knight and his Daughter the most part thereof: to the end he should see her honourably married, and furnish her with all things becoming such a beautiful Wife. The Knight and his daughter seeing so much treasure, fell down on their knees and would have kissed his hand: but he very kindly took them up in his arms, saying this was nothing in respect of that he would do for them hereafter. For his mind being ever given to liberallty, received such contentment by the

the speeches of his Host: as rare and precious things seemed of no account, for her sweet sake who was the Goddess and Mistress of his heart. All this night he passed in premeditating what he ought to do in the present occasions, at length he resolved to go see the Journey, without making himself known to anyone, because soon after he would journey to the Isle of *Candia*, hereupon he sent a Squire in the morning to *St. Lordin*, to leave order that the ship should meet him at *Macedon*. When courteously taking their leave, *Ozario* and he rode towards *Constantinople*, whither the old Knight would have born them company, but *Palmerinos* perswaded him to the contrary, and so set away in great haste, arriving in the evening within two miles of *Constantinople*, from whence he sent a Squire to the City, to understand what was done at the Court, and when the chiefest day of the Journey should be. The Squire well discharged his Masters command, and returned with full satisfying him in every point: wherefore *Palmerinos* and *Ozario* determined between themselves, not to ride together in company, but each one alone with his Squire, and to return thence very secretly again: nor would they stay there but the two chiefest days, lest happily they might be discovered, and so slack their journey to the Isle of *Candia*.

## CHAP. XV.

*Now Palmendos came to Constantinople, where he won the honour and prize of the first Tourney: and how he intended to depart thence on the morrow, lest he should be sought for on that occasion, and what else happened.*



When the long expected day of marriage was come the Emperour with all his knights were very richly clothed, but especially Arnedes, son to the King of France, he was exceeding brave both in attire and countenance, for the hope he had to see fair Philocrista, to whom he had religiously dedicated his heart. Now set they forward in order to the Temple, the Emperesse with Philocrista and her other daughters accompanie, and the Bride, with all the Ladies of blood royal in the Court: so that if one should sit down to decipher their sumptuous attire, or else in speeches to commend their beauty, it would overstraddle the eloquence of Demosthenes or Cicero. But Philocrista was the fairest star amongst them all, which drew the Prince Arnedes mind into such admiration as had not his eyes been witnesses of the same, hardly could report have induced him to believe it. For when as the Sun the most excellent of all the Planets, shewing it self in the Horizon both confound the brightnesse of all the stars together, and dazzles their eyes which long gaze thereon; even so resembled the prince's Philocrista, whose celestial portraiture, disgraced all the other Ladies, and altered the judgment of Arnedes in such sort, as he reputed her far beyond the Goddess that appeared to the shepherd Paris on the mountain of Ida, when of him she was judged to be fairest of the three.

The

The Emperesse and her Ladies all mounted on their palfreys, with such pomp and state as was never seen the like: Primacon on a lusty courser of Barbary, with rich caparisons after the Turkish manner, conducted the Bride, and Abenunco her brother rode with the Princesse Philocrista. Lecefin who loved her more advisedly, rode on her other side for companies sake but Arnedes, whom love impatiently overmastered, used such means by managing his horse, as he got the Prince of Babylon out of his place moved thereto by earnest desire, that he might contemplate her beauty more easily: whereat Lecefin was marvellously offended, conceiving a mortal hatred against him, perceiving he had a rival in his love. Recinde accompanied the Princesse Melicia, who in his eye seemed both fair and modest, Rifarano telling her by the way, that this knight came with him that conquered the County, and for his laudable virtues deserved estimation; whereupon she began to confer with Recinde, which she could do with singular regard, in respect of the rare gifts bestowed on her by nature. In brief, this royal train is come to the Temple, and there is the marriage solemnly effected, returning to the Pallace with the self same majesty they went thither. What should we waste time in speaking of the feast, when there is none so simple but considereth, that the feasts of Emperours exceed common repetition: then may we repute this solemnity answerable to that of the Gods, made at the nuptials of Peleus with the Goddess Thetis. After dinner, the Lords and Ladies fell to dancing, a fit occasion for Lovers to commune with their Ladies, yet disguised with such cunning modesty, as the eye and action were chief messengers of the heart, each Lady holding such opinion of her beloved, as their several hopes was for the honour of the Tourney.

The time being so passed over, as the newly married couple went to the place of amorous contentation, the Emperesse with her daughters brought Elquivela into the brides chamber,

¶ 3

chamber,

chamber, leaving her in bed attending for the coming of the hydgroom, who was soon after honourably conducted thither by the Emperour, and so committed to enjoy her whom he had so long desired. Now are the knights close in their chambers, when Arnedes thus communed with Recinde. What think you, cousin, of the beauty of Patru Philocista? did you ever see a more rare and perfect creature? right soon must I give ease to these urgent affairs, and ease the burthen of mine over-charged spirit; therefore will I presently dispatch a Courrier to the King my father, that he may with speed send honourable Embassadours to the Emperour, whereby this desired marriage may be concluded: Mean while I will sound the bottom of this amorous flood, and try if the judgement of fair Philocista be answerable to her excelling beauty; and if the inward vertue agree with the outward singular perfections, I may repute my self the happiest knight in the world, in compassing the love of so inestimable a jewel. In sooth my Lord (answered Recinde) great cause have you to commend the Lady, and I desire that the like fortunate success may befall me, as I doubt not but will speedily happen to you: for on mine own behalf, the grace and courtesie of Melicia hath given me a favourable entrance, which if it proved not to my hearts desire, much better had it been that I never had seen her.

With these words Arnedes embraced his cousin, saying. How sweetly do these speeches sound in mine ears, seeing thereby thou art my trusty companion in all things; let this hope persuade thee that he on whom all actions do depend, will by his divine bounty so direct our course, as we shall enjoy a successful end. If I speed according to my hearts intent, in the cause will I endeavour my self to the uttermost; therefore let us continue our resolute courage, and make the Grecians understand, that France yields as good knights as any Countrey else. And thus concluding, they slept for that night.

On

On the morrow the Emperour the Emperesse, the Wybe and the young Princesses, went to the scaffold richly prepared for the sight of the Tourney, where no void place was left, but every where filled with Lords, Ladies, and Gentlewomen. Wonderful was the resort of knights and hardy Champions, each one in Armour very costly and various, having their feathers, pendants and favours decked with the devices and colours of their Ladies, as it was almost beautifully spectacle to behold them, yet hereon consists not the substance of our History. Now strike Lynedes and the Count his cousin, like two furious Lions, to recover the spoil they sustained by Arnedes: who perceiving this was the time to win him honour when the Goddess of his thoughts fate to behold him, welcomed the challengers as he had done before. In like sort did Rifarano beheld himself; for he unhorsed every knight that ran against him. But by this time is Ozalio got in through the throng, and he begins to deal with the Courtiers very roughly, which made the Lords and Ladies wonder what he was. And then Palmendos seeing his friend well wearied comes bravely prancing into the field, so disguised, that Abenunco and Rifarano could not know him. A while he stood regarding the Emperour his father, so honourably placed with his noble Lords and Barons on the scaffold: then blessing the Emperesse with her gracious train of Ladies, he wondered at such pomp and magnificence, thus speaking to himself.

Sovereign Creator and director of all things, how am I bound in duty to thy Majesty, having made me the son of such a father, as not onely is reputed, the best knight under heaven, but is also the mightiest Prince on the face of the earth. Seeing then thou hast bestowed on me such grace and favour, as that I should issue from such an excellent personage, I must endeavour my self to resemble him, and by something declare that I am his son: for although now I go against the knights of his Court, I hope

hope he shall have small cause to mislike of me, when he knowes my forwardness in other matters on his Majesties behalf.

When beholding a knight ready to encounter him, he brake off his mummings, and gave him such a welcome, as he stumbled headlong down to the ground. Like successe had others other knights of the Court, which Arnedes seeking angerly to revenge, accompanied the other in misfortune, and after him Perned in son to the Duke of Pera, one of the best esteemed knights in Greece. Ritarano next ran against Palmendos, and thzee courtes they past bravely with the break of the lance, but at the fourth Ritarano was dismounted; whereupon Recinde came to revenge his cousin Arnedes foil, whose fortune was as bad as any of the other, and Lecefin had his disgrace likewise for company.

The Emperour moved to admire this Chivalry, ignorant who this gallant should be, affirmed that he never saw his equal in prowess; the like did Primalcon, being very desirous to know his name. To whom Abenunco answered, that he imagined him to be Palmendos, because he much resembled him in brave constitution of body. At these speeches the Emperour was exceeding joyful, requesting Abenunco to go understand the truth thereof: But Palmendos had thrust himself in the thickest of the crowd, which now went out of the Lists, because the sports were ended for that day, so that Abenunco could by no means come near him, and therefore was faine to return unresolved. So went Palmendos closely to his lodging again, where being unarmed, he found that he had received thzee wounds that day in the Joust, the greatest whereof he took by Recinde the Prince of Spain: but when he saw Ozalio in good disposition, he was right joyfull, commending him for his worthy behaviour. And for that he was wounded, he layen there two days without returning to Constantinople, lest if he went again, his intent might be prevented: Afterwards he rode to the Realm of Macedonia, in the  
very

very same Arms he wore at the Journey, continually having Francelina in his mind.

## CHAP. XVI.

*What conference Arnedes had with the Princeß Philocrista after Supper, whereupon he sent a Messenger to the King his Father: And how after Recinde, Ritarano and others had won the Prize of the second Tourney, they intended to follow in search of the Prince Palmendos.*



Very much ashamed were the vanquished knights of the hard entertainment they had received by Palmendos, and most of all the Prince Arnedes, because he was unhorsed before his Mistress Philocrista; wherefore he vowed to be revenged, or he would die the death: And so others other knights that murmured against the Conqueror, did the like. But the Emperour perceiving this discontentment, came to Arnedes, Recinde, and Ritarano, and to put them from these melancholy conceits, he shewed them very pleasant countenance, saying, they ought not to mislike with what had happened, in that themselves shewed very sufficient Chivalry, and desired them at the next Journey to compass the knowledge of the strange knight. At he come again (answered Arnedes) it may be happily be to his disadvantage; for he having already disgraced so many, the sport will hardly end without his foil. By this time was Abenunco come back to the Emperour, declaring how he could not speed in his intent, wherewith his Majesty somewhat offended, said.

For will any quiet sleep enter my head, until I know the name of that worthy knight; and were it not I should be



he esteemed over-sond, I would my self travel till I found him. All the Knights marvelling at these speeches, concluded when the Triumphs were ended, if so be the Strange Knight returned not again, to adventure themselves in the search of him; and they who were most forward hereto, were Arnedes, Recinde, Rifarano, Leecin and Pernedin son to the Duke of Pera: these gallants without any farther conference together, constantly vowed to die, or bring back the Knight again to the Emperour, if they might make hold him in any place.

Supper being ended, Primaleon and Ditreus took Arnedes and Recinde with them, going to sit and devise with the Ladies, when Arnedes got the mean to court Philocrista, and Recinde his chosen Mistress Melicia; what contentment they received by this good opportunity, I refer to such as are desirous to break the Ice of their amorous passions to them that hold them in so severe servitude. Divers familiar speeches tolled up and down, as of the Tourney, and their unhappy disgrace: Philocrista pitying that Arnedes should take it so discontentedly, thus spake. He thinks (he) you should not be offended at so small a matter; for oftentimes the best Knights have no better success: and we have so well beheld your valiance, that the Conquerors have cause to complain of your coming as the vanquished have of the Knight departed, who as yet is unknown to any in this Court. Arnedes hearing the gentle speeches of Philocrista, bashfull modesty withheld him a while from making any answer, yet at length Love unlocked his lips in this manner.

Madame (quoth he) the rare ornaments wherewith nature hath accompanied your divine perfection, causeth you to speak so favourably on my behalf, although no desert in me can apprehend the least part of this kindness: but were I possessed with any such ability, the very glance of her eye, who hath power to command me, would increase my strength, and make me invincible, wherfore my desires cannot

cannot be satisfied, untill I recover my liberty lost in this Tourney, the conceit whereof is more intolerable to me, then the labour so Sisyphus in rolling the restless stone. The Heavens will further your attempt herein (answered Philocrista) and I heartily desire it may so come to pass, because it were against reason, that you coming so far to see my Lord the Emperour, should receive so unkind a reward for your labour. This sweet reply redoubled the French Princes joy, for which he humbly thanked Philocrista, with so many courtesies and amorous shewes, that she well perceived the effect of his grief proceeded from the passions of a lovers spirit.

Recinde (on the other side) had so communed with Melicia, that she perceiving how many offers he made to her Knight, favourably gave him entertainment: and more then any thing else it pleased him to note her beauty, wisdom and good grace, which set his eyes, and all his senses to work. And if they that are in such delight with their Ladies, give some refrigeration to their hearts enflamed with the fire of love; how could Leecin but be in extreme jealousy, seeing his rival thus to parley with Philocrista? gladly could he have wished him without ransom in the strongest prison of Persia.

But now is the hour of rest come, when the Emperour withdrew himself to his chamber, and all the Knights likewise to their lodgings, where Arnedes still meditating on the words of his beloved, immediately wrote to the King his father, that he should send Ambassadors to the Emperour, for conclusion of the marriage; and till they came he would there stay at the Court, without any further speeches of the matter till their arrival: so sealing his packet as it should be delivered to his fathers hand, he sent one of his squires the next morning away therewith in post; who made no less speed then the Prince had commanded him. Afterward he called Braguel his Dwarf aside, commanding him not to stir out of Constantinople, because he



was to be part about some matters of importance, and if the Emperour in the mean while asked for him, to make him that answer; or any other that enquired after him. Moreover, that he should from time to time confer with the Princess Philocrissa, assuring her of his zealous affection to her service; which that he might the better execute, he was often abroad to take the air of the fields. The Dwarf very willingly performed every thing he had in charge, not daring to break the least article he was commanded.

The time being come of the Journey, rare Chivalry was there bestowed on all sides; but Arnedes, Recinde and Xifarano had the chiefest honours, attending when the strange Knight should shew himself again: And when they saw he came not, they immediately determined the execution of their enterprise, without returning into the City, or knowing which way each other rode, but even took their chance as fortune directed them. The Emperour was glad that his Knights had won the day, yet could he not but marvel that the stranger was seen no more: When coming to the Palace, and seeing none of those five which were departed in the search of Palmendos, he could not tell what to imagine. Of every one he desired to be resolved; yet could he not be answered to his content; wherefore Biquel made answer for his Master as he was commanded, which made his Majesty then to conceive the truth in deed, whereof he was not a little glad, hoping now to hear more of the strange Knight.

When the solemn feast for the marriage was ended, the Knights returned to their own Countreys; so did Ditreus and Eiquivela toward Hungaria, with an honourable train sent by the Emperour. Philocrissa was sorry for the departure of Eiquivela, whom she loved as if she had been her sister, because from their young years they were educated together: Nor could Abenisco her brother go with them so far as happily he would, because the league of amity

ty between him and Primaleon enforced him to stay. King Frysol received his son Ditreus, and his fair daughter Eiquivela with incredible joy, humbly (by letters) thanking the Emperour for the honour he had done him, returning his Knights with rich and precious gifts. But come we now to the five Knights, that were departed in search after Palmendos.

CHAP. XVII.

*How Arnedes met with Palmendos, who left him half dead, and had afterward been slain by Leccfin, if Pernedin had not happily arrived, and what followed.*



ALready you have heard how Arnedes departed secretly from Constantinople, in search of the Knight that sought him in the Journey, demanding of every one he met by the way, if they saw not a Knight in red armour, having a little silver flower for his device in his shield, but no one could answer him to his expectation, whereupon, the night being hard at hand, he came to an Hermitage at the foot of a Mountain, where with the old father he lodged that night, contented with his poor and homely refection. On the morrow, bidding his Host heartily farewell, he had not rode an arrow shot from the Hermitage, but he espied two Knights coming riding together, and desiring to see what they were, at length he knew the one to be Palmendos, which good hap pleasing him not a little, he intended by fair means or force to cause him return again, wherefore he came to him with these words.

Sir Knight, I think my self labourer of Fortune by meeting

meeting you here, in that I left the Emperours Court for nothing else but to seek you, because his Majesty desireth to see and know you in respect of your brave behaviour at the Journey; therefore I intreat you, for the love you bear his highness, to return back with me, that I may discharge my promise herein to his Majesty. You did not well, he (answered *Palmendos*) to promise any thing depending on another mans will; and for that at this time I have urgent occasions elsewhere, I cannot satisfy his Highness desire, albeit I am ready in any thing else to do him service; and so I beseech you answer on my behalf. Knight (quoth *Arnedes*) I pray you consider hereon a little better, and think that such speeches cannot discharge me of my duty; therefore determine right soon to go with me willingly, otherwise I must compel you to return perforce. Perforce? no, (said *Palmendos*) well may I go with my will, if so be I please. I wish it for your good (answered *Arnedes*) and the remembrance of your valour in the Journey, causeth me to bear with you very much: but seeing you will not willingly yield hereto, provide for the combat; and think not that your bravery at the triumph, shall any thing avail you now in this place. If you will needs enforce me to it (quoth *Palmendos*) let yours be the shame: as for my self, in respect of my love to the Emperour, I would be loath to combat with you. Whereupon they so furiously encountered together, that both of them were sent to the ground; and afterward they fought a cruel combat at the sword, till *Arnedes* with the great expence of his blood, having received many a grievous wound, fell down at the Prince of Tharsus feet, who having made clean his sword, that was very bloody, and put it into the sheath said.

I think you will not hereafter seek to enforce any knight, remembering how dearly you have paid for this boldness. So mounting on horseback (albeit he was likewise wounded) he rode on his journey with *Ozario*. The Hermit with whom *Arnedes* lodged all night, having beheld this combat,

but, moved with charity and compassion, came down the Mountain, to succour *Arnedes*, who lay bleeding in the grass and unclasping his Helmet to give him air, in short time he recovered his senses again. When seeing none but the Hermit, and that the Knight was gone, he reputed it for an act of great humanity, in not killing him outright, his life standing at his mercy: Afterward he thus spake to himself. What shall I now do, if not complain of the instability of Fortune? Was not my coming into these Countreys unhappy where I thought to win honour and renown, when all things turn to my shame and reproof? Alth my strength is not correspondent to the valour of my mind, I must give over the exercise of Arms, which Fortune (I see) envies I should follow. Longer would he have continued in these pensive moans, but the Hermit interrupted him in this manner.

My son, give thanks to him that delivered thee out of the Knights hands, and hath not suffered both body and soul to perish: Let idle and indecent thoughts be now abandoned, and lift thy mind to the place of eternal comfort. With these words he bound up his wounds so well as he could, minding to lead him to his Hermitage. But as one mischance happeneth not alone, so fell it out at this instant: for he was no sooner gotten on foot, but *Leccin* his mortal enemy arrived; and knowing him to be his rival in love, drawing his sword, thus spake.

How shall I teach thee, my capital enemy, what it is to love her whom thou art not worthy to serve, and that shall I make thee presently confess or buy thy boldness with the price of thy blood; for a Lady of so rare perfections, standeth too high out of a Frenchmans reach. Wherewith he violently strook at *Arnedes*, whom the good old Hermit seeing in such dangerous case, did take him in his arms, desiring *Leccin* not to seek his death, that had of late escaped it so near. But *Leccin* being a Moor, and therefore the more inexorable, would give no ear to his words, but  
cruelly

cruelly gave the old man such a stroke on the head, as that therewith he fell down dead to the ground. Ah dogged and villainal Traytor (said Arnedes, when he beheld this tragical act) why hast thou slain this religious Father that never offended thee? the Heavens I hope will not let thee pass unpunished, but plague thee as such a damnable deed requiteth.

So taking his sword as well as he might, by reason of his former hurts, he sought to defend himself and revenge the Hermit's death: but all was in vain; for (without a marvellous chance) Arnedes' death was now obtained. In a happy hour arrived there Pernedin son to the Duke of Pera, one of them that departed in the search of *Palmendos*, who knowing both the combatants stepped between them saying, Why now Gentlemen are courtly friends become enemies in field? Arnedes, who was no longer able to hold out, falling down to the earth, said.

Ah Pernedin, revenge my wrong on this inhumane wretch, who seeing me cruelly wounded before, by the Knight that bare away the honour of the Journey, without any cause set violently upon me: And this villainous Moor, not content to wrong me alone, hath slain this holy Hermit, because he dissuaded him from dealing with me, that had been so hardly intreated before. What tyranny is this in a Knight? answered Pernedin, by my sword, it is not my love to Rifarano overrule me, the gentle prince that brought thee to the Court, here I would make thee to breathe thy last: but I shall declare this treason before the Emperour and his Barons, what manhood thou hast used to a wounded man, whom thou durst not deal with had he been in health: wherefore get thee gone I advise thee, or I shall send thine accursed soul to hell. At these words, Lecelin was so ashamed of himself, as mounting presently on Arnedes horse, he rode away not speaking to either of them, knowing he had notoriously blemished his honour: wherefore he went to a Monastery of Nuns near at hand,

to

to have his wounds bound up, that he had received by Arnedes.

When the sisters knew that he was of the Emperours Court, they entertained him very courteously, and one of them being a cunning Chirurgian, undertook in a short time to heal his wounds. Now was Pernedin both offended and grieved, to see the old Hermit slain, and Arnedes in such danger; wherefore calling the Povice that always attended on the old Father, they led the wounded Prince into the Hermitage, and afterward fetching the dead body, buried it as they could conveniently, applying sovereign salves (whereof the good old man was never unprovided) to Arnedes wounds. But Pernedin seeing there was no more help, and they likewise ignorant in those kind of unguents thought it more meet they should go straight to the City of Constantinople.

Where may you (quoth he) sooner recover your health, because men of skill and knowledge shall take special care of you: and for my part, I will willingly accompany you thither, albeit I have not sped in the cause of my departure. It will be to my shame, answered Arnedes, that the Emperour should see me in this dangerous plight, notwithstanding I will at this present be contralled by you, being never able to recompence this honourable kindness.

## CHAP. XVIII.

*Now Pernedin brought Arnedes to Constantinople, where the Emperor, the Emperess, with their Daughters Philocrista and Melicia, came to visit him; what talk the two Dwarfs had together.*



Presently after that Arnedes was brought (by the means of Pernedin) to Constantinople in a Litter, because he could not endure to sit on horseback: news of this mischance was brought to the Emperour, who growing into extreame anger against the Dwarf, said. Well may Lancelin resemble the bold man his father, a man full of treacherous and ignoble practices; but he must not thus think to wrong a Prince of France. So stepping crowningly from his Chair, he went to the Princes chamber to see him, charging his Physicians and Chirurgeons to tend him as well as if they had his own person in cure.

When Arnedes revealed the whole discourse of that which happened between Palmendos and him, at the end whereof the Emperour thus answered. I wonder that the Knight should be so desirous to do me service, and yet doth fly in this sort from me; doubtless he is gone to prove the adventure of Francolina, if he rode that way you say he did, and it may be his fortune to end it, I hope, except our Sephew Belcar exceed him in valour, and that I can hardly believe he will.

When the Emperour departed, he commanded that the Emperess and her daughters should go visit the Prince, which she accordingly did, taking Philocrista and Melicia with her, she being greatly offended at the injury done to Arnedes.

Arnedes, Philocrista, very much bewonned his mishap, yet wisely and discreetly as became a sober virgin; for the love she bare him was derived from gentleness and virtue, which she noted him to prefer in all his actions, and nothing had she in more especial account, then to conserve her chastity pure and unspotted. Arnedes was joyfull to see her he loved so dearly, how she sorrowed for his hard fortune, and blamed Lancelin as a disloyal Dwarf: which gentle speeches did more comfort his heart then all the Whysack or cunning in the world could do.

While the Emperess and her daughters beguiled the time with him, Amenada a woman Dwarf that attended on Philocrista, and Risceno her Sephew, came to Bruquel, Arnedes Dwarf, who used sundry lamentations, for the great mishap had befallen his Master. Amenada comforted him in the best sort she could, saying, that in respect his wounds were not mortal, there was no doubt but he would soon recover them; and the rather, because the Emperour had given such charge of him, as his own person could not be better attended. Ah (quoth Bruquel) would God it were no worse: then breaking forth a renting sigh, he proceeded in this manner.

Ah my noble Lord Arnedes, how dear doth her beauty cost thee, for whom thou leavest thy Countrey? where the onely reputation of thine estate, being attracted from such an high and illustrious linage, was sufficient to have obtained her, without hazarding thy life in so many perils and dangers. Amenada marvelling at these words, was immediately wrapped with a curious desire to know which was the Knight he named, and therefore she laboured Bruquel with intreaties: for her Lady Philocrista knew his Master to be a Knight of France, yet none but the Emperour could tell that he was the Kings son. All things that I can possibly (quoth the Dwarf) will I do for you, this onely excepted, which without his command I dare not attempt, because my liberty stretcheth not so far; yet will I

promise you to ask him the question, and if he be pleased, I will satisfie your desire.

Melicia, who was earnest in affection to know more as concerning her Lober Recinde, seeing these *Pyrrhoni* thus conferring together, and over-hearing some of their speeches, after they were departed to their chambers, she demanded of Amenada, what talk she had with Arnedes Dwarf: whereupon she repeated the whole discourse, to the no little content of Philocrista, because this way she might attain to more knowledge of the French Prince. And as she heard her say, that he left his Country for the love of a Lady, she presumed immediately her self to be same, for commonly, it falls out, that Lovers will faine themselves in semblable judgements & confitures: wherefore she commanded Amenada, to await Bruquel for performance of his promise.

The dwarf when he saw convenient time to talk with his Master, he gave him to understand what had past between him and Amenada, which pleased him so well as nothing could do more, & commended to him the pursuit of his practice. On the morrow, the Emperour and Primaleon dined together, wherefore Amenada went to find out Bruquel at his lodging, and he meeting her by the way, first of all told her that he would perform the promise he made the day before: but (quoth he) before I satisfie you herein, I must request one thing of you.

Demand hardly what thou wilt, quoth Amenada, for the sure being honest, thou canst not be denied. You must promise me then, said Bruquel, that to no living creature except Madam Philocrista, you disclose what I shall reveal to you. So is it Amenada, that for the love of her onely, Arnedes my honourable Lord and Master, eldest son to the King of France, hath forsaken his native Country, in that she renown of her excellent beauty spread by fame through all those parts, caused him to cut through the dangerous seas, to credit with his eyes what his ears were cloyd with all.

all. And having at full contemplated her sweet face, he finds that nature willing industriously to embellish the chief piece of work, hath taken all ability from human report, how curious or eloquent soever it be, thoroughly to accomplish the praise of her merit: wherefore he hath sent a Currier to the King his father, that his Majesty should send Embassadors hither to confer with the Emperour on a marriage between my Master and your Lady, and till they come to dispatch this occasion, he will not be known hereof to any one, except it be to her gracious self onely. Humbly then desire her, with some benigne clemency to intreat the heart, which her divine figure hath secretly ravished and made her thrall, so shall she give cure to his wounds, & make him the most fortunate Champion that ever entered field for his Lady: otherwise he can not long enjoy his vital motion, and by his death shall occasion divers other worse, especially his cousin Recinde, son to the King of Castile, who loveth him as his proper life, and as he bare him company in this voyage, so will he take part of the hardest fortune, for the love and near alliance, that is between them.

So well could this tall Pigny use his language, to gain success for his Masters intent, as he made no more difference between the two Princes, in respect of their loyal unanimity together: then was between the two Pythagorick companions, Orestes and Pylades, or Nisus and Eurialus, that would one die for another. Greatly did Amenada marvel, hearing that a Prince of so high and great birth, would adventure thorow such dangerous travells, onely for the accomplishment of a marriage, and might have gained it with much lesse labour, wherefore she thus answered.

In sooth, if I had not promised to acquaint my Lady herewith, I durst not for my life discover such weighty matters, because I cannot tell her the whole discourse, in that her Sister Melicia is never from her, and then shall



she know as much as my Mistressse. What hurteth not repaired Bruquel, never conceal it through fear of her presence, for she is such a wise and well governed Princesse, as she will rather modestly hide it, then any way seek to spread it abroad, and will (beside) nothing at all mislike thereof. This he spake, for that she had her part in the play, namely by her love to the Prince Recinde, and if perhaps Philocrissa should be slow of opinion in her love, Melicia happily would counsel her not to refuse so good an offer, in brief, that they might reciprocally advise one another, as sick folks who had surfeited both of one disease, and so oftentimes it comes to passe, that two thoughts afflicted with one kind of martyrdom, receive together more consolation, then they could by any other that feel not the like torment.

Bruquel having done his endeavour, for the conciliation of Philocrissa with his Master, returned immediately to him, whom he found attending in silent devotion, to understand the issue of this amorous stratagem, and after that the dwarf had word by word recounted all his negotiation, Arnedes was wrapt in such unspeakable joy, as he imagined the hour happy when he met with such an ingenuous French man; Amenada on the other side, when she espied time for the purpose, interpreted so well and faithfully the intent of the Prince to her mistressse Philocrissa, as she therewith was carried into a thousand imaginations. And albeit the knight despaired not in his fate, but rather imagined so sweet a countenance would be inclined to mercy: yet she had so lost her liberty in this cause, by seeing her beloved so pangerously wounded, as now she feared to send him any sorer or rigorous answer, wherefore she thus spake to her Dwarf. I am offended that thou wilt promise Bruquel to acquaint me with this news, but seeing what hath happened cannot be prevented thou shalt then go to Arnedes, and tell him from me, that I marvel he would thrust himself into many perils, for which I account

count my self beholding to him, and promise him in requitall of his hard sufferings, to accept of him as my loyal husband, if my gracious parents will so permit it: with this condition that he adventure not the least speeches hereof to me, but hold himself sufficed by knowing my will herein. And that I may be assured of the vehement affections he bears me, desire him to feed on this answer, as on the most sovereign Balm or perfect Cataplasm, that may sweeten of all consolidate his wounds: so hastening his cure and convalescence, that (if it may be) he honour me with his presence to morrow.

After Philocrissa had instructed Amenada in her Embassage, she took Melicia aside, to whom because they loved each other with sincere affection, Philocrissa discovered this amorous intent, and Verbatim reported what the Dwarf had told her: which discourse well contented Melicia, chiefly when she heard that her knight Recinde, was of a royal blood of Castile. By this time is Amenada come to the French Prince, and hath delivered the message from Philocrissa, wherewith he was so heartfully animated as soon after he determined to forsake his bed, but before the dwarf returned again, he desired her to convey a French ditty to her mistressse, which for her sake, he desired that morning, and withall to intreat the Master of the Emperours chappel, to order it in parts, after the most musick: the ditty was thus.

The finest gold is by the touch discern'd,  
The Adamant the sturdy iron draws;  
The proof hereof in love may well be learn'd,  
For by these twain I shape a lovers cause,  
You Madam framed of the finest Gold,  
Upon the touchstone of my heart is tried;  
And I compos'd of the Iron mold,  
Follow the virtues that in you abide.

They



Then fith the touch tells if the Gold be pure,  
And rugged Iron shews the vertuous stone:  
Take Touch and Iron both into your cure,  
For (Madam) they belong to you alone.

After that Amenada had receiv'd this Ditty, she said to the Prince, that she could not tell how her Mistress would take of her, bying her such a presumptuous message: yet if she were displeased therewith, she would disguise every thing so well, as each of them in the end should receive contentment. So returning to the Princess Philocrista, she told in what extremity the Prince was for her love, and to mitigate his passions, had framed that ditty: which when she had read and well noted, she accounted her conquest greater, then if she were possessed of all Asia. Sundry times did the Emperesse and her daughters with the French Prince, to the unspeakable contentment of the secret Lovers, who awaited nothing but the coming of the French Embassadors, for the confirmation of their long desired hope: but let us leave them a while, and come to Rifarano, who is all this while in the search of Palmendos.

Chap. 19.

CHAP. XIX.

*How Rifarano being in the search of Palmendos, met with a Dwarf travelling toward the Emperour, to complain on a wrong a Knight had done him, and how to revenge the Dwarf, and gratifie the Emperour herein, Rifarano went to combat with the Knight before his Castle.*



Three days together receiv'd Rifarano, after his departure from Constantinople, without hearing any tidings of the Knight he sought for, and now in the evening, he met a Dwarf on horseback accompanied with four Squires, of whom he inquired likewise as concerning the knight.

In sooth, quoth the Dwarf, I saw not any such, but tell me I pray you from whence you now come. From the Court of the Emperour Palmerin, answered Rifarano. How happy then am I, said the Dwarf, to meet you here, because I have evermore heard, that thence comes many good and vertuous Knights, wherefore I shall pray (in respect of the good I wish to so benigne a Prince) that you may soon find the man you look for, and likewise that his Majesty may pittie my cause, in revenging me on a Knight that hath shamefully outraged me, I giving him no cause of offence in the world. With these words he gave a marvellous sigh: whereupon Rifarano desiring to understand the cause, the Dwarf thus began.

Know gentle Knight, that albeit God hath fashioned me as you see yet did he bestow on me riches and possessions, & among other things I have a strong Castle not far hence, where fell I in love with a beautifull damosel, Daughter to a Gentleman my near neighbour, with whom I dealt in

such

such sort, as soon after I enjoyed her in marriage. Living afterward in all prosperous felicity, we walked abroad to recreate our selves, in a pleasant field near adjoining to my house, where this proud and discourteous Knight (who long laboured to have my Wife in marriage, and by reason of his evil conditions could not obtain her) came accompanied with two of his Kinsmen (as bad disposed men as himself) and there took my Wife perforce from me, carrying her to a castle of his two days journey from hence, where he keepeth her under strong guard, and hath sent me word by one of his Squires, that if I complain hereof to any living creature, he will come and kill me with his own hand in my Castle. Yet being unable to endure this villainous oppression, I am going to tell my cause to the Emperour *Palmerin*, who I hope will speedily do me justice herein, being a Prince thereto greatly addicted, as I have heard report.

*Risarano* marbelling at this horrible injury, said to the Dwarf, shew me the Castle where the Knight abideth; for I doubt not but to do so much in the right of thy cause, as he shall yeeld recompence for this fault, and fear hereafter to offer the like to any one, without any further troubling the Emperour herein. The Dwarf accepting this friendly offer, that night lodged *Risarano* at his Castle, where he was exceeding well entertained, and on the morrow, taking six Squires with them, rode to the Knights Castle, where espying one upon the walls, *Risarano* demanded if his Lord were within. Harry is he (answered the Squire on the walls) he is now sporting himself with that tall fellows love: but I am sorry that you would be so badly counselled: quoth he to *Risarano* as to come to end your life in this peace. Be not thou so carefull for me (answered *Risarano*) but go, and let thy Master understand, that I would speak two or three words with him, on certain matters that very nearly concern his honour. The Squire went presently to his Master, who hearing that the Dwarf

Dwarf had brought a Knight with him, took the Gentlewoman by the hand, and brought her with him to a window, where opening the casements that they might see her, said.

Knight that dost call me hither, say boldly what thou canst; for I well perceive thou comest to seek thine own ruine. And there dost thou find thy villainous (answered *Risarano*) when by force and treason thou dost abuse this Gentleman, who never gave thee any cause of offence; wherefore restore his wife, whom thou unjustly detainest: or if reason may not thereto persuade thee, come down and enter the combat with me, and I shall let thee know the price of thy villany. I had not thought replied the knight of the Castle that thy indiscretion had been so great, as to think I would win a thing so hardly, and deliver it from me so lightly; no: shall the paragon of my heart be again in the custody of so base an excrement of nature. When he spake to the Dwarf in this manner.

Thou wretched and ridiculous creature, comest thou likewise to make one in the Tragedy? begin with thine own hand thou wert best, or I shall plague thee with extremest torments. So took he the Gentlewoman in his arms, and oftentimes lasciviously kissed her, she striving in tears to hinder his embracing, wherefore he said. Good Madame, seek no occasion whereby to offend your self; for you shall see me pluck down the bravery of this Knight, and make the monster your husband safe from troubling you any more. Tush these are but words (quoth *Risarano*) let me see thee come armed into the field, then shall I live in hope of some deeds: And if thou wilt have me imagine thee courageous, bring down the Lady with thee, that the conqueror may carry her whither him please. I am content (answered the Knight) because thou shalt see how little I esteem thy threatening, and soon shall all controversies be ended between me and thee, that hereafter may arise on this occasion.

Quickly had he armed himself and came forth leading the Lady in his hand; which when the Dwarf saw, he durst not tarry, but got him a bow shot further off. So fell the Knight and Ritarano to the combat, which continued long time doubtfull on either side; but at length Ritarano had the upper hand of his enemy, having given him many cruel wounds on his body. When the Squires of the Castle saw their Master overcome, they would forcibly have carried the Lady into the Castle again: but Ritarano abstergished therof by her cry, made them forsake her and run hastily into the Castle. Then taking her by the hand said, Come with me, Lady, and I shall deliver you to your husband that loves you loyally, as you may be perswaded by this I have done at his earnest intreaty.

Many humble thanks she requited him withal, seeing her self free from this insidious enemy; and the Dwarf seeing this fortunate success, came and humbled himself at the conquerors feet, imbracing his wife with abundance of joy, being neither of them able to express their contentation, for that tears and inward motions of comfort had deprived them of speech. Afterward the Knight had recovered himself again, and came stealing on Ritarano thinking to murder him but the Dwarf espying him, cryed out; whereupon the Prince returned, and once more getting him into subjection, with his sword smote his head from his shoulders.

The Dwarf not a little joyfull for this victory, desired the Prince that he would accompany him to his Castle, because that traitorous Knight had a brother and two cousins who hearing of his death would presently pursue them. Whereunto Ritarano courteously condescended, and mounting the Gentlewoman behind her husband they journeyed thence with all speed possible. But ere they could reacher the place where they would be, they were pursued by the Knights Brother and his two cousins; when the Dwarf and his wife now verily thought to die; notwithstanding,

such

such was the brave behaviour of Ritarano, that one after another they sped as the Knight of the Castle had done, and so without any more interruption they got home to their Castle, where they feasted the Prince very sumptuously. On the morrow he departed thence, continuing his travel after Palmendos, and by the way, he succoured a distressed Countess against a cruel brother in Law of hers, named Diolo who sought forcibly to deprive her of her possessions; but by the rare chivalry of Ritarano, he lost his life in that bad attempt. And here with the Countess we will leave Ritarano, having too long forgotten our chief Knight Palmendos.

## CHAP. XX.

*How Palmendos arrived in the Isle of Carderia, where first he vanquished Tirendos in the Iust, and and next the Knight that guarded the passage of the Bridge, and also divers other that assailed him at the third Tower, and how he came to the Gardengate where Francelina was.*

**N**ot long since you understood, how after Palmendos had vanquished Arnedes, he followed his way with long desire to see Carderia, wherefore omitting all occasions that might hinder his voyage, he determined to make no stay till he come to the Isle, and very soon after it was his chance to arrive there. When he implored the help of heaven in finishing this adventure, and as a sacrifice after victory, he promised to offer his soul to the holy character of Christianity, and to be baptized so soon as he could. At this time Belcar kept not the passage of the bridge, because he was departed certain dates before, to visit the King and Queen of Macedon: for they hearing of his wonderfull deeds of Arms, in defending that

Mage, sent for him to the Court by an expresse messenger. And truly he would not have gone (so resolute was he in his enterprise) but that the Princess Alderina secretly commanded him by a Letter written with her own hand: she having discovered the truth of all to the Duke Griano, intreating her by some means to continue the Duke her father there, till that time Belcar came from the Isle of Carderia.

The Queen liked hereof exceeding well, and knowing her Nephew could not join in more honourable marriage, then with the chaste and virtuous Alderina; she conferred with the Duke and Dutchesse of Pontus, who likewise were glad of so noble alliance. For this cause the Queen sent one of her Gentlemen to Belcar, accompanied with Alderinaes page, who closely delivered the Prince the letter, the substance whereof followeth thus.

*The Letter sent by the Princess of Durace, to Belcar Son to the King of Hungary.*

To the right valiant and renowned Prince *Belcar*, Son to the King of *Hungary*: a Maiden very easie to be deceived, sendeth health condigne to his deserts.

Excuse me, Lord *Belcar*, if I write to you what the abundance of my spirit intoreth, because if it were of any thing else, I fear I could not end, without confused wandring in this discourse: so extraordinarily are my senses herein perplexed, as they can enjoy no little brentling time of rest or quiet. And if you would exactly consider, from whence this molestation proceedeth, you should find the ground thereof to be violent and excessive love, which on my behalf was faithfully entertained, and dedicated to none but onely you: a reason to procure this Letter the more favourable entertainment, and to be read with as good will as it was written. Know then, that I

do not without great occasion silently complain of you, because me thinks you seem a promise breaker, or rather a perjuratour in love towards me, as the reading of this Letter will cause you to confesse, if that reason be not allanated from your judgement, which ought to direct your compass in all affairs.

What think you now will be the vulgar opinion of your attempt, nothing but that you desire to have a name of *Francelinaes* true champion, considering the marvellous exploits in Arms, which daily you perform in her defence: making hereby the renown of her excellency more memorable, and all Gentlemen more desirous to vssile that Isle. Wherefore I now perceive you are not my Knight; but rather that your service is onely for the fair Princess *Francelina*: which induceth me to believe, that the speeches used on your behalf, when you departed from the *Tauraneg* at *Macedon*, were meer forgery and dissimulation: an act sufficient whereon to raise condemnation (unless I speedily perceive the contrary) and to repute you the most dissolap Prince that ever made profession of manhood. But to prevent this perswasion (whereof common speech by your absence hasteneth me) and that it may not be resolutely set down in my mind, I pray you come hither with what speed you can, before my departure hence to *Durace*, that I may apply some remedy to my continual Martyrdom, which in loves unquenchable fire my heart suffereth by your occasion. Else send me in such suddenly what is your intent, as concerning the principal points dilated, and by no other messenger then this beaver, whom I charge with some speeches by word of mouth: him you may boldly trust and acquaint with your secrets, as the most faithful messenger I could devise to send.

The Lady known to you, whose death is near at hand, If pity cause you not to come, the peril to withstand.

This letter, and other matters of credence wherewith Alderna right well instructed Gracian, were the onely means that the Prince Belcar came to Macedon, who left Tiredos (in mean while) defender of the Bridge at Carderia, hoping to return thither again very shortly: but other matters happened to him which excused that labour, according as you shall read hereafter.

Now come we to the Prince of Tharsus, whom Tiredos perceiving to approach the Bridge, came and denied him passage according to the order; whereupon they fell to the Batt, Tiredos fortune proving so bad, as he was sent to measure his length on the ground; whereat the beholders were greatly amazed, for that since the departure of Belcar, he had prevailed against many a Knight. Among the rest the Queen of Thessaly mother to Francelina, who was come thither five or six days before, because the last of the three Fairies that caused the enchantment in the Foytress, foreseeing she could not live long, hastened the coming of Palmendos, as you have heard before, and after ward sent word to the Queen, that soon after her death she should see her desires accomplished.

The death of the Enchantress was no sooner known to the good Queen (who had an extream affection to see her Daughter free from the Magical conjurations, that thereby the King her husband might be delivered from cruel servitude amongst the Heathen) but she departed from Thessaly and came to the Isle of Carderia, where she, nor any of hers could pass further then the bridge; wherefore they erected Tents and Pavilions in the field, attending there the end of the adventure, when she seeing that Tiredos was vanquished, wished such success to the new come Knight; as that he might happily finish the enchantment.

Palmendos perceiving how his first adversary would trouble him no further approached to the gates of the first Tower, where he beheld the great Knight ready to offer him

him battel, whereto he alighted from his horse, and drawing his sword, said. If the providence of the heavens have destined me to conquer this enterprise, far be all partiality and cowardise from me, till I have delivered the gentle Princess here inclosed: for bear then mine eyes as yet to covet the sight of Francelina, albeit you desire to behold her, and I will keep promise with you so soon as for, time pleaseth.

After these words, he closely buckled with the Knight of the Bridge, continuing a long, dangerous and doubtful combat with him, the Dwarf in the meantime sundry times with his Horn renewing his Champions forces: yet by the man of invincible courage who was ordained to be his Conquerour, he was confounded in spite of all his devilish helps. So for ward he marched to the second Tower, and as the gates were clapping together, according as they did to the Prince Belcar, he thrust his sword between the gates, when immediately the thunder ceased, and they fell back wide open as they were before.

At this good hap the beholders were greatly amazed, especially the Queen of Thessaly, who followed on still accompanied with Ozalio, and to him she highly commended the worthy behaviour of this Knight: Ozalio answering her, that she had good cause to applaud her stars, having sent hither a Knight of such royal descent, as his like was not to be found through all the Christian Kingdomes. Tiredos in this while was carried into his Tent by his Squires, where he so grieved for his disgrace, as he was ready to die in despair thereof. Now to Palmendos come to the last Tower, which was defended by three Knights armed cap a pe, and they with three sharp lances stood ready to receive him at the point, wherewith he being somewhat amazed, said to himself whereon thinkest thou Palmendos? what? beginnest thou now to dismay? tush man be of good cheer, thou labourest for her, with whose beauty none in the world may compare: if by committing

so far thou hast done more, then any Knight before thee could perform, commit thy self to God and Fortune for the rest, and follow thine intent though thou die therein. Now begins he courageously to adventure on them: who joining altogether against him, overthrew him that he could hardly arise again: notwithstanding recovering his foot, he pursued with such unconquerable hope as at length he drove them before him over the bridge, when both they and the first Knight of the Tower vanished away together, and in like manner did the dwarf that sat in the lantern, with a horrible shaking of the earth and the whole fortress. The Queen, Ozalio, and the rest fell down, and honoured heaven for this victory: persuading themselves that the worst of the adventure was past, as for the Prince himself he followed the matter with such alacrity, considering fair Francelina was the reward of his travel, as nothing seemed to him impossible. So passing on, he found the path that guided the way to the garden, which was guarded by two furious enchanted dogs, there through the which he beheld a fountain: with sundry grooves of damosels about it, and in the midst in a curious chair of cloath of gold sat Francelina the sweet Goddess of beauty, so wonderfully decked in rich ornaments as it would have made any heart enamoured to behold her. Palmendos rapt then with the sight of her, slept in it, the dogs not daring any peril. When presently the enchanted dogs ran upon him, as though they would have torn him in pieces, and being thus very dangerously they did assail him, tearing his armour cruelly in pieces, that he was now driven to despair of his life: yet in the end with much ado he prevailed against them, albeit they brought him into exceeding great perplexity, as he never felt the like in all his life before.

Chap. 27.

## CHAP. XXI.

*What gentle speeches and gracious devises, Palmendos had with fair Francelina in the Garden, where they supped together: and how after he had told her what he was, he gave her the Ring, which he received of the Queen his mother at his departure from Tharsus.*



Francelina already had felt the flames of love, in as vehement manner as the Prince Palmendos, because the Fairies (knowing the end of the enchantment was at hand) told her that ere long she should be conquered, and delivered from that Castle by one of the best knights in the world, she being at her birth appointed his wife, in recompence of his adventurous travels.

And this discourse she sealed with so many rare commendations of the Knight, as her heart was surpris'd with love in such sort, that she longed every hour to see the man appointed for her husband. And as the Pilot long perplexed with outrageous tempests, mounts to the top to see if any Haven for rescue is at hand: so this Lady tossed to and fro in the rough billows of love, oftentimes left her Dungeon and came upon the walls expecting the coming of this promised Knight. By good hap she espied when Palmendos came to the bridge, beside the trembling of the Castle at the departure of the knights, touched her heart with a sign of present comfort, whereupon in this bravery she went with her damosels into the garden, expecting the issue of the knights fortune that presaged so much before hand. In brief, he being entered the garden,



as you have heard already, she being directed by the Fates what she should do, when she perceived the dogs overcome, arose with her Damocels, and went towards the Knight, shewing many gracious countenances for his welcome; but Palmendos seeing her approach so near him, fell on his knee, offering to kiss her hand, whereat Francelina bashfully blushing, offered him the like, saying.

It is my duty, Sir Knight, to use such humility, albeit your courtesie hath prevented me, for this wonderfull adventure finished by you declares your rare perfection in Chivalry, being second to none that at this day beareth Arms. Yet ere you take me hence, I would request one favour at your hands not any thing to make you doubt the losse of her, who freely giveth her self as your own, but for that you have delivered me from the enchantment, my request granted, you may dispose of me as your loyal spouse and wife. Adam answered Palmendos, I now think my self no lesse beloved of heaven, then favoured by fortune, hearing you say that I am yours, and you are mine, which makes me think all my labours nothing in respect of you: therefore dem and what you please, for I being your professed servant, must with all reverence obey your command. A thousand thanks good Knight (quoth she) albeit such speeches agree not with your calling, I being onely in your subjection, and ready to attend as your hand-maiden: but methinks it were necessary you should take a little rest being now so regard the end and period of all things, let me therefore humbly intreat you, to come refresh your self for the better conservation of your health.

So went they both together to the Fountain, where Palmendos was unarmed by the Princesse Francelina and her Damocels, and a costly Mantle was brought to wrap about him, then sat he down by his Lady, in another chair covered all over with Gold. There was Lillies, Roses, Violets, and all the sweet flowers that the earth afforded, of incomparable beauty: the maidens beguiled the time with

with sundry sounds of instruments, and thereto sung many dainty Canzonets, as if Apollo, Orpheus, Arion, and all the other fathers of heavenly Musick had been present, which so attracted the senses of the Prince, as his memory began to waxe dolefull and forgetfull imagining himself in a very beatitude, where he seemed to see, not onely the perfect beauty of a Goddess but a divine shadow, which carried away both his heart and eyes in contemplation.

Of the like opinion was the young Princesse, marveling at the brave constitution of her Knight, and esteeming her self beyond all other in happiness, that Fortune had sorted her out such a husband: and in both these Lovers were the fairest couple that ever were joined in marriage together, not unfitly compared to Ecander and Hero, the two goodliest stars that were in their times. In this surpassing contentation, they continued till a Damocel (understanding that supper was prepared) there set before them a table ready covered, the wood whereof was very precious, delivering a labour much like to Waln, and thereon was set all sorts of costly viands: hard by stood a Cupboard richly adorned with Basons and Cups of gold, which were embellished with such precious stones, as the value of them was reputed inestimable.

But these Lovers could eat very little, because they had work enough to regard each other; for there is nothing in the world more agreeable to one enamoured, then to contemplate the object of his thoughts, because love making a breach into the body, and planting his kege against the very soul, hinders the passage of nourishing meats, and makes them feed on his lovely devices, which are such as every one of you that have tasted thereof, can best apprehend the pleasure and sweetness thereof. Hence proceeded delightful dreams and fancies of the mind, when the eye taketh a full view, and the lively draught of the object beloved through the penetralls and rayons of the stomack, which graves on the heart the perfect portrait of the thing

belov'd. And what morsel more delicious, what wine more pleasant, or liquor more ambrosious can one find, where with to satiate the soul espous'd with the bountie of Venus; then the exact contemplation and secret discourse, which the spirit maketh to his onely choise, when he beholdeth himself reciprocally belov'd of her whom he loveth: doubtless none at all: happily some other might be spoken of which seem to yield more content, but then they are transitory, and of no continuance.

In this sort supped *Palmendos* and *Francelina*, when the damoisels withdrawing the Table, went to take their own recreation, leaving these twain to devise together: Then approached the knight to the mistress of his heart, and said, *Spadame*, how happy may I name the hour of my nativity, seeing the celestial bodies appointed me such a planet, as made me gain the honour of your love: Now find I that for truth which you told me in the Temple of Delphos, that in short time I should see you at mine own pleasure. Command then I beseech you, what you would have me do, and show me the way to gather some fruit by the perpetual service I have vow'd to your divine beauty, that I may at be some cooling to the unquenchable flame, where in my heart is more and more tormented. The Princess replied, My Lord, I cannot but admire to hear you say that you have seen me in another place: In sooth, at the age of three years I was fatally inclosed in this Castle, where never since entered knight or any other stranger, but onely you. As for my request, whereto you have promised, this it is, That you attempt not against my chastity, until our marriage be solemnly performed, which may not be, till you first have rescued the King of Thessaly my father from the long imprisonment wherein the Turk hath kept him. This adventure you must needs undertake, which doubtless you shall worthily effect, and so be Lord of me, and of the Realm of Thessaly, whereto I am lawfully heir after my fathers decease; for performance whereof, I

commit

commit my self into your custody, provided you keep your former promise.

*Palmendos* attentively noted her words, and afterward remained a while silent, imagining whether he should send or accompany his Lady to the Emperor or in mean space keep himself unknown to any, till he had ended the adventure in Turkie, bringing at his return the King of Thessaly with him; if the heavens favoured him in his deliberance; at length breaking off this silent determination, he answered in this sort, *Spadame*, so fervent and irrepressible is the love I bear you, as to gain the Monarchy of the whole world, I would not offend the very least of your virtuous thoughts: And albeit I had not promised what you require, my own regard should have taught me better government. For I account my self the happiest knight under heaven, not by any honour or praise gotten in this adventure, but onely to see myself subject to such incomparable beauty, and one so nobly descended. And now *Spadame* as I shall not account any pain or travel too much for you, thinktag my self sufficiently happy, that the stars did so fortunately shine upon me in this action. I that hereat you not to return to your fathers house, but I will leave you to the Emperors charge, the Prince when I shall desire to be so, leaving patiently the burden of my guilt in your absence, till time allow us a glorious meeting. We assured words of assurance. My noble Lady (quoth she) that never shall I love any but you to whom the fatal destiny have onely appointed me and no less will my torments be in your absence then yours, being now deprived of this former liberty and the same travail serv'd to your self loving.

Spending the time thus in amorous conference, at length he told her all that hapned to him in the Temple at Delphos, where if he told her not in person, yet he did be-  
hold her living by representation and had a great deal of faith  
which he, *Francelina* could not but admire, yet  
commending

commend[ing] the wisdom of the *Fayres* in appointing her so noble a husband. Now she desires to understand his name and birth, wherewith, at large he truly acquaints her, yet willing her she should not reveal it to any, till he returned with the King of *Thessaly* her father. Then will he give her the King, which he received of the Queen his Mother when he came from *Tharsus*, requesting her to keep it carefully, because he must shew it to the Emperour his father, as the token whereby he should discern him to be his son.

## CHAP. XXII.

*How Palmendos and Francelina going to the Queen of Thessaly, met without the Castle divers Knights and Ladies of the Isle, which attended their coming: What reverence the Lord of the Isle did him, and how he brought the Queen to see the Castle.*



Highly pleased was the Princess *Francelina* when she knew her spouse to be son to the Emperour *Palmerin*, and all this night they beguiled the time with sundry discourses pleasing to them both. The next morning, the Princess brought her love to behold her stately lodging, where she caused him to put on a costly black Armour left there by the *Fairies* purposely for him, as also a goodly sword, by vertue whereof he might bring such as him pleased into a sound sleep: so causing two *Damosels* to bear his helmet and lance, they intended to walk forth of the Castle.

Now shined fair *Francelina* brighter then the morning Star, her head attire adorned all over with *Carbuncles*, *Diamonds*, *Rubies*, *Emeralds* and *Oriental Sapphires*.

and her upper garment being a long robe of cloth of gold, curiously figured with pearls and precious stones, as the value thereof was imagined incalculable. In this and far greater pomp then I can set down, they left the Castle, meeting by the way sundry Knights and Ladies of the Isle, and among them all was an ancient grave Gentleman, father to these *Fairies*, whom they invested in the government of this Isle after their death he falling on his knee before *Palmendos* and *Francelina*, delivered these speeches. Adventurous and most fortunate Knight happy was the Planet that ruled at thy birth, seeing that by thy virtue and wonderfull powers, thou hast made this place accessible, which so long time hath continued full of trouble. Reverend Sir (answered *Palmendos*) the sovereign bounty hath made me the instrument of your good, and therefore I rejoyce a great deal the more: if you be either Father, Uncle, or allied to those noble Damosels, that by their knowledge have done so much for me, I give you all the right here to be had by the conquest of *Francelina*. I humbly thank you Sir (answered the Knight of the Isle) for offering me such a courteous gift, whereof I am altogether unworthy, the ablest my daughters by their secret Philosophy in this action still directed your course: but leave we these speeches till better opportunity, and go we to comfort the Queen of *Thessaly*, who on the Bridge attendeth your coming: for till you have brought her daughter over the Bridge the enchantments are not ended, and then shall the Castle be in the former state, as it was when *Francelina* came first hither. And is my gracious Queen and mother here (said the Princess) then I see my joys will meet altogether. So walked they willingly over the bridge, attended on by many Lords, Barons, and Ladies when the Queen seeing her daughter come towards her, hardly could she restrain from swooning in the arms of *Ozario*, who was likewise ready to do as much at the joyfull sight of his friend *Palmendos*, yet at length she embraced her daughter, saying.

What abundance of tears have issued from mine eyes, since the time I saw my beloved daughter? How many bitter anguishes of heart have I endured, and breathed innumerable sighs and clamors into the air, for the absence of this and the King thy father, every hour expecting the release of you both from imprisonment? How irksome is the remembrance (O perfect substance of mine entrails) that I was a mother so cruel and severe to banish thee so long time from me? But herein I consented to the persuasion of the Fairies, who promised that by the imprisonment, I should recover the King my husband out of thralldome; it now remaineth whether their words will sort to effect or no. Wherefore (Sir Knight, seeing you have exalted the soul that lay despairing in the fouds of extremity, by delivering my daughter from these magical charms; let me intreat thee to follow thy fortune, and accomplish all my joys together, in restoring him for whom this sorcery was invented, that the remainder of our life may be more happy then it hath been since the time we first met together.

Palmendos sorrowing to see the Queen thus lament, encouraged her in this sort. Good Madam torment not your self with any further grief, seeing I have determined to lose my life, or else to bring with me the King of Thessaly; in the mean space, allwage your sorrows by the presence of your daughter, whom the heavens have allotted to be my wife and thereby confirmed you my gracious mother. By this time the Knight of the Isle had made such provision in the Castle as they might there lodge according to their content, because more convenient place there was not near at hand, and there three days they sported themselves in pleasure, marvelling at the ingenious devices there framed by the Fairies, so that the Castle seemed as a terrestrial Paradise. Which Palmendos perceiving and that it was seated in a sweet and fertile climate, he intended to send for people of his own native Countrey, whereby it

might

might be better inhabited, and because some memory of him and Francelina might be reserved to following posterities.

The Knight of the Isle feasted them very royally, and nothing was wanting that might any way delight them; when Palmendos falling into conference with the Queen, desired that she would accompany her daughter to Constantinople, there to stay with her in the Emperors Court, as sent from him; and that she should moreover assure his Majesty, that he having finished his voyage into Turkie, would no longer conceal himself as he had done. My noble son (quoth the Queen) I shall willingly perform what you have appointed; but I would know if you mean to take any strength with you against the Turk, because I would send for aid to Thessaly, and beseege, crave assistance of the Emperour who I am sure will succour me with all his legions. Gracious Madam and mother (answered Palmendos) I will take no other company with me, then I brought hither for such business must be done rather by adventurous hazard, then by bringing forces into the field; so that were yours and all the Emperors united together, yet should we never compass our intent that way. But you shall understand that I being upon the sea not long since, met with the King of Calaquin, son in law to the great Turk, as he coasted along Thrace, with his Robbers and Pyrats, onely to endamage the Empire so far as he might; yet by good hap I took him prisoner, and sent him to his Majesty at Constantinople. If happily by secret subtilty I cannot prevail, I shall make an exchange of these two Kings, colouring the matter with many plausible reasons: in brief, I will do as the occurrences shall best advise me, wherein I hope the divine bounty will direct me the best course, that I may compass the issue of mine affectionate desire. The Queen rejoiced very much, when she heard that the King of Calaquin was likewise prisoner, and hoping to have her husband in exchange for him, she more diligently

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lively

Urgently hastened the departure of *Palmendos*; the *King* (though loath to leave his company so soon) did fair *Francelina*, not doubting but her *Lord* and husband would soon return, and knit up all their joys with the presence of the King her father.

## CHAP. XXIII.

*Now the Queen of Thessaly and Francelina her daughter, departing from the Isle of Cardoria, were accompanied on the way by Palmendos and Ozilio, when taking their leave each of other, the Queen and her daughter rode to the Emperours Court, where they were very graciously entertained.*



With are these Lovers to part asunder, but the causes being urgent, they are constrained to make a virtue of necessity: wherefore taking their leave of the Knight of the Isle, as also of all the Lords and Barons that so friendly bare them company all this while, after many amorous and ceremonial courtesies, accompanied with sighs tears, and sorrowfull looks, and they had brought them half a days journey on the way, *Palmendos* and *Ozilio* rode toward the sea-side where they had left order that their ship should meet them.

The Queen and her daughter, without any trouble to hinder their journey, arrived at the City of Constantinople, sending one of her Knights to the Emperour to let him understand the cause of her coming, as also the discourse of all that had happened. The Knight discharging his duty as he was commanded, his Majesty requested to know his name, who had so fortunately delivered *Francelina*. The Lord answered the Messenger, he is called *Palmendos*, the most valiant & courteous Knight of all these parts

at

of the world. Such good have I heard of the man, said the Emperour, but cometh he now in company with the Queen? To my Lord, replied the Knight, because the future deliverance of our King, hath procured his journey into Turkey. When the Emperour commanded *Primaleon* and his Barons, to go accompany the Queen and her daughter to the Court, which they with all diligence performed, for that the fame and renown spread of her through all those regions, increased their desire to behold her. *Arnedes* likewise would have gone with them, but as yet he was not perfectly recovered, and besides he was daily very melancholy, seeing the Embassadors of France stayed so long, nor could he hear any tidings of his cousin *Recinde*. The Queen of Thessaly and her Ladies came attended in mourning black, expressing her sorrow for the King her husband: but *Francelina* like glorious *Cynthia*, in her chiefest pride, clothed (as you have heard) in most stately ornaments, drew every eye to behold her beauty. *Primaleon* having saluted the Queen, gave her place and rode with the Princess her daughter when carried away in conceit with her surpassing feature, he entered into these speeches, He thinks (*Adam*) the Fairies were too much inquisitive, to lock up in prison such admirable beauty, in that any gentle heart beholding you, would the sooner adventure for the King your father, having such a gracious reward set down for his travail: wherefore *Palmendos* hath good occasion to boast, if fortune permit him to deliver the King of Thessaly. And I quoth *Francelina*, account my happiness nothing inferiour, gaining thereby the most valiant and debonaire Knight, that ever enterprised actions of chivalry, which makes me esteem the Fairies wise and discreet, by inclosing me in the enchanted castle, for very seldom would have they lost their lives in peril having once seen me, where contrariwise to get honour by the adventure, they made proof of that which was onely destined for *Palmendos*, he being the man that justly may be called the Saviour of Knights.

Thus



In this matter I will not contend with you, answered Primalcon, for the virtues and graces of your beloved, is such, as no man worthily may be compared with him, wherefore you have good reason to affect him: and he likewise bound to constant permanency, if your divine looks have pierced his heart as they ought. The Emperour and the Emperesse, with Philocrissa and their other daughters came to the Palace gate to welcom the Queen, when shee and her daughter alighting from their palfreys, with humble reverence saluted his Majestie, who with his Emperesse honourably entertained them conducting them into the great Hall, where the Queen began in this manner.

Most mighty and invincible Monarch, Palmendos the noble Jewel of Knight-hood, by us kisseth the hand of your Imperial Majestie, having sent you this young Princesse to be kept under your protection, till he return from Turkey with my espoused Lord the King of Thessaly, if fortune grant his deliverance from the cruell Infidels, for which I continue in hourly devotion, as well for the great desire I have to see the King my husband, as also for the Knights speedy return, who onely dedicateth his travells to your highnesse service. With these words she delivered her daughter to his Majestie, and the Emperour receiving her very graciously, shewed himself exceedingly joyfull for their arrival, desiring them to use his Court as their own, and to be as frolicke there as if they were in Thessaly. Beside, he prayed God so to direct Palmendos in his attempt as he might deliver the King her husband from captivity: withal, that if he had requested assistance in the cause, he should have had his Majesties power at command: then taking Francelina by the hand, he said. Now you daughter Philocrissa, I commit the honourable charge of this young Princesse, untill such time her Knight be returned. My Lord answered Philocrissa I shall right willingly fulfill your commandement, being

no lesse glad of such a companion, then to have the Lady present with me for whom such rare deeds of Chivalry have been performed. the Emperesse took the Queen by the hand, and Philocrissa her charge Francelina, they all sitting down under a sumptuous Canopy, where the knights regarding them, especially the Emperesse and the two Princeses, imagined a second judgement for the Apple of beauty. And admit we Amades for the gentle shepheard Paris, yet he imagined his Philocrissa to be most perfect, although Francelina was very far beyond her, all the knights concluding that they had never seen more choise beauty, except the Emperesse when she was in the flower of her youth. But Philocrissa never attained her mothers perfections, albeit she had two sisters named Floida and Bazilia (which by the author of *Palmerin* are named Belita and Melicia) that came very near her in resemblance, especially Floida of whom we shall have occasion to speak hereafter, when we come to the noble Prince Edward of England.

The Emperour intreated Francelina, to tell him (if she could) of whence Palmendos was, whereto the Princesse modestly thus answered. Dead Lord, I can repeat no further of him, then that he is commander of a Kingdom, and divers other Signozles of great estate: what else I know of him, I am to be excused till his coming, when himself will manifest his Country and originall, not his valour and courtesie, for that is blazed through most parts of the world. For this discreet answer, she was greatly commended by the Emperour, who noting her comely gestures and behaviour, esteemed her discreet and well advised: and seeing the King on her finger that Palmendos gave her, he thought it very much resembled his own King, which the Queen of Tharsus gave him at his departure. How could he not contain himself, but demands of her, of whom she had that costly Jewel, so like one that he held in great estimation: she answered, that Palmendos



gave it her, after her deliberance from the Isle of Carderia, whereat his Majesty greatly marvelling imagined the Knight to be the Queen of Tharus son. Now was he much more desirous to see him. then before, remembering what kindness she shewed him in the realm of Palmecia: then causing his own King to be brought, and compared with that the Princesse wore, they were found in every point so like and conformable, as hardly could the one be known from the other. Anded they were made both by one workman, & magically charmed like in resemblance, as the perfect signal to discover the original of Palmendos: which made the Emperour conceive some suspicion, that this unknown Knight should be his Son, especially when he called the Queens dark speeches to memory, which she used after her acquaintance with him. Yet would he not reveal this doubt to any one, but pass it over with freely welcoming the Queen and her daughter, and bestowing in speeches, that he was glad Belcar kept not the bygone. When it was Palmendos fortune to arrive there, yet was he sorry for Tircendos mishap: albeit he commended the courtesie of the conquerour, in saying no further on the Prince of Mecena.

But leave we Palmendos and Ozalio travelling toward Turkey, and speak a little of Recinde the Castilian Prince, being one of them that followed in his search.

## CHAP. XXIII.

*How Recinde pursuing the search of Palmendos, rescued a Merchant from five Thieves, whom he discomfited on the mountain: And how by the means of an Archer that bent his bow against him, he came to the mouth of a deep Cave, where he killed a Lion that kept it, and delivered thence a Lady, which was enchanted into the shape of a Serpent.*



Recinde leaving Constantinople, for the same cause as the other Knights did, happened to the same place where Palmendos lodged the night before, demanding of his Host, if he had seen any such man: who made this answer. Shortly the same man that had the honour of the Journey, was my guest this last night, and never did I see a more courteous Gentleman, which makes me hope, he will end the adventure of Francelina, whither he is gone as he told me he would. With these words the Spaniard was well contented, minding to follow him to the Isle of Carderia, and riding by the way, he heard a very lamentable cry, which caused him to look about, when he espied one hanging on a tree by the arms, and five villains hard by, making a fire, to dress some food they had killed on the mountain. Coming to the man that hung in this woful plight, he cut him down, and understanding that these villains had robbed and so abused him, he caused the Merchant to take his weapon, and so they setting upon the Thieves, slew three of them, giving the other to flight: by which means the Merchant had most of his treasure again, for which he thanked the Prince:

Prince: and mounting on horseback, he accompanied him on the way.

Not far had they gone: but they met a Knight unarmed, of huge constitution and evil favoured, having a Turke bow in his hand and a quiver hanging by his side full of arrows, of whom they desired to know which way they should get out of the Forrest: The discomteous Knight (without making any answer) let fly an arrow at them, wherewith he killed the Prince Recindes horse; he being not a little moved at this mishap, grew into great choler against him, who made no longer stay, but ran from them so fast as he could. Recinde and the Merchant still pursued, till having lost the sight of him, and marrelling where he should be hidden at length they found the mouth of a very dark Cave, which they suspected the Knight had taken for refuge: whereupon the Prince intreated the Merchant to stay there without, because he intended to search the Cave, and be revenged on him that had so wronged him.

Not far had he gone under the earth, but he heard a pitfull voice crying for help, which caused him to return back again, when at the entrance of the Vault he beheld a mighty Monster, which came forth with the Knight, and ran upon the Prince exceeding furiously: but he who could not be frighted with matters of greater moment, so valiantly defended himself against the beast, as in short time he laid him dead at his foot. Now ran the Knight back again into the cave, and the Prince after him so fast as he could, till at length he came into a goodly Hall, which was hanged round about with gorgeous Tapestrey, and therein might one behold all such as passed by the mouth of the cave, as if they had discerned the same in a Glass. While he stood beholding this beautifull prospect, he saw the Knight coming towards him armed, and drawing his sword, thus spake to the Prince.

Wretched

Wretched Knight, overmuch foolishly hardness hath brought thee to this place, for I shall let thee see the danger incurred by thy presumption. Doze indiscreetly (quoth the Prince) hast thou behaved thy self in killing my horse without any occasion of offence. Wherewith they combatted a long while together, till the Knight feeling himself unable to resist the Prince, would have saved himself in the chamber he came from, offering to keep the door against him as his defence: but Recinde thrusting after him into the chamber, he beheld a great and hideous Dragon lying there, the sight whereof somewhat amazed him; yet seeing the beast stirred not against him he continued his former quarrel with the Knight, bringing him at length into such subjection, that with his sword he smote his head from his shoulders. The Serpent terrified with extrem fear, began to shrink back, when Recinde lifting up his sword to strike, the Serpent spake in this manner.

Sir Knight, for Gods sake pity me, and seek not to shed my blood, having no way offended you; so shall I be perpetually bound at your commandment, for delivering me from this cruel Knight who hath forcibly kept me here the space of six years. The Prince hearing these words, held down his sword, when the Serpent thus proceeded. I am no Serpent, Sir, as happily I seem in your eye, but a most unfortunate and abused damosel having suffered the most miserable life that ever woman endured, living (against my will) in the custody of this traitterous Knight. If thou art a humane creature (answered Recinde) I marvel thou shouldst have the shape of such a deformed beast. I know (said the damosel) what representation I have in your judgement; but I dare assure you on my life that I am no Serpent or any thing else but a most distressed woman. Which well she might affirm because the Knight new strain, to conceal her the more cunningly, made her to resemble so by Art magicke, as you shall understand the whole at large.

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He loved this Damosel so extreemly, she being the daughter of an ancient widow, dwelling not far off, as seeing he could not obtain her in marriage, by reason of his bad manners, and ill favoured body, so laboured with a Magician, a friend of his, to cause her to resemble a Serpent to any but himself. Her mother and brethren (being ignorant of this treachery) seeing such an ugly Serpent among them, were so affrighted at this strange metamorphosis, that they fled presently out of their Castle. The Damosel following to understand the cause of their fear, wandred sorrowfully after them thorow the fields, where she was surprized by her Lover, and brought to the Cave prepared by the Sorcerer, appointing she should continue in that appearance, untill one of the best Knights in the world should arrive there, and valiantly win her out of his custody, onely by his death to be delivered, and six years she had abode in that place, seeming a beautifull woman to her Lover onely, and to all others a monstrous Serpent.

Recinde given into wonderfull admiration bemoaning her cause, thus spake. In sooth this is the most strange accident that ever I heard of; but seeing your Lover is dead, belovely may you depart the chamber, and return home to your mother again; for in time (perhaps) this hideous shape will forsake you. My Lord (quoth she) I have many times striven to get forth of this prison, but all my labour hath been in vain; for by like sortledge hath the Knight bound me here, as he got me from my mothers Castle. So am I perswaded (answered the Prince;) wherefore seeing of your self you cannot depart, I will try if my strength will release you of this servitude. Then taking his arming gear from about him, he made it fast about the Serpents snout, and forcibly thought to pull her out of the chamber; but the strength of the enchantment over-mastering him, when he had gotten her to the very door, would violently pluck her back again. Yet Recinde being all heart

and

and courage, gave not over for all these resistances, but at length by exceeding labour and travel he got her into the Hall, and then she seemed a very beautifull woman, who falling down at his feet, intreated him not to forsake her, till that he had brought her to her mothers Castle. So going forth of the Cave, she told the Merchant all that had happened, which made him answer her in this sort.

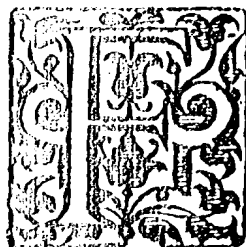
Madam, both you and I are highly beholdling to this Knight, for he hath miraculously called you from a lamentable sufferance, and not onely hath he saved my life, but helped me to my goods again which were utterly lost; wherefore we have good cause to think that he is the only Paragon of Chivalry. So breaking of these speeches, they took the Knights horse, because he had slain the Prince, and mounting the Damosel behind him, brought her home to her mothers Castle, the ancient Lady being not a little joyfull to see her daughter, whom she reputed utterly lost: likewise her brethren were very glad to see their sister restored home again. As for their friendly entertainment you may judge it by the cause, which being of nature must needs surpasse all other.

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Chap. 25.

## CHAP. XXI.

*Now Recinde arrived at the Isle of Carderia, where understanding that Palmendos had ended the adventure, he went to seek Belcar at Macedon: and of the Combat he had with him, by the false persuasion of the Damofel that followed the revenge of her brethrens deaths.*



**D**ur dates stayed Recinde and the Merchant at the old Ladies Castle, and then taking their leave, the Prince commended the Merchant to his own occasions, and he rode strait toward the Isle of Carderia, desirous to try his fortune in the adventure, as also to find the Knight he sought for:

but being there arrived, he understood how Francelina was delivered, Palmendos gone towards Turkie, and Tirendos above at the Castle with Lypes and his sisters, from whence he sent a Squire to Macedon, to certifie Belcar what had happened, as also to intreat him to stay there for his coming.

As for the Prince Belcar, he being now with Alderina his chosen Mistress, to speak of all circumstances entertaining between them, would be more labour to me then pleasure to you. She accuseth him with a great many articles of ungentleness, that he would travel for Francelina, being before her vowed Knight; and he excuseth all under this point that what he did in a place of such trial, was onely to eternize the name of Alderina, and nothing to the advantage of Francelina; nor could the greatest Monarch on the earth have commanded him from that service but onely the gracious Letter sent by her: wherefore he desired

desired to return thither again, to make her more famous till the adventure were ended. So stay her answer, and appease his hot desire at that very instant, the Courier arrived sent from Tirendos, whose message being heard, highly was the Princess contented but Belcar overcome with exceeding grief, because faine he would have tryed his fortune against Palmendos.

Now come we to the Damofel again, that pursued Belcar for the death of her brethren, according as you have sufficiently heard before. She understanding that he was in the Court of Macedon, so highly loved of the King, Queen, and the whole nobility, she was out of hope to touch him any injury there; wherefore she intended to return home again: and by the way she happened to meet with the Prince Recinde, when beginning her accustomed complaints, she delivered the same discourse which she had done to Cardino and Tirendos, saying, that the Knight who had so traitorously slain her brethren, sojourned in the Court of Macedon.

Recinde desirous to win honour by succouring the distressed, and hoping he might find the Knight he sought for at Macedon, answered her in this manner. If it be, Damofel, as you say, that the Knight in such traitorous sort slew your brethren, I promise you, by the faith I bear to Chivalry, that to my power I will revenge your wrong, because all Gentlemen receiving this Ower, are bound by duty to assist Damofels injuriously wronged by disloyal barlets. The crafty deceitful loit at the Princes feet, affirming what he had said with many oaths. Go then with me (quoth Recinde) to shew me the Knight, and either I will lose my life, or make him confess his villainy. She affronted pallard mounted on her palfrey, and such speed they made in travel, as at length they arrived at Macedon; when entering the great Wall, they found there the King, Belcar, and divers noble Barons, wherupon the Damofel thus spake to Recinde.

Soe here, my Lord, the Knight that flew my brethren: I beseech you make him know before the King, the treason he committed against harmless men: for his Majesty not knowing the enormity of the case, reputeth this offender to be one of the most courteous knights in his Court as my self perceived at my last being here. Recinde having with humble reverence saluted the King Florendos, turned to Belcar with these speeches. Sir Knight, this Damoisel hath sworn to me, that you have trayterously slain two of her brethren, after you had been friendly entertained at her fathers house: if you did so, surely it was an ad far unbecoming you, and by force of arms I shall make you so to confess it, if you have the hardiness to enter the field with me. Belcar greatly offended to hear himself so charged, and evermore by one that sought to bring his life in danger, in anger thus replied.

An scoth Knight, I cannot but think thy discretion very simple. in saying, if I have the hardiness to enter the field with thee; and thy presumption is as insolent, as this Damoisel is trothless and disloyal, in accusing me without any cause: notwithstanding I hope to recompence you for light belief, and that false woman likewise, the instrument of thy folly. After these speeches he went and armed himself for the combat, which the King many ways laboured to hinder; but Recinde continued so resolutely against Belcar, that the King could not dissuade the matter, wherefore he thus spake to Recinde.

Seeing you will not at my intreaty give over this rashness, let me understand the name of him that will not grant so small a matter, especially to one that is able to yield thanks therefore. I am (quoth Recinde) a Knight of a strange Country, who came to the Emperors Court at Constantinople, mean while the Mystials of the Hungarians and Danes were solemnized, whither likewise came a Knight unknown, bearing a silver flower in his shield: he having won the honour of the Tourney, departed secretly

cretly from the assembly, which made me follow in search of him: and in respect I am but a poor Knight errant, I desire no wounding may be offered me in the battel. He there, assured, said the King that none shall meddle with you but your adversary onely: And trust me it grieved me to the very heart; that coming from the Court of the Emperour Palmerin my son you should here enter the field against Belcar, who is one of his Majesties chiefest favourites. When Recinde heard Belcar named, on the one side it displeased him, that he was to deal with a Knight so famous and renowned; on the other side it grieved him as much, when he considered the near alliance between him and Melicia, whom he loved as his very soul, so that willingly he would have forgoon the combat but that he could not with honour gainsay it.

Now the King desired the Duke of Pontus, and another of his chiefest Barons, to judge the fight according to conscience, and without any exception of person. Soon after the champions enter the Lists where breaking their Lances bravely in the career they were both dismounted: notwithstanding they quickly recovered themselves and drawing their swords fell to the combat. Long while they continued a most furious fight sharp and cruel wounds being debtered on either side, that judgment could not be given who was in greatest danger: but his Majesty seeing Belcar was feeble, and that it was like this fight would end both their lives, as one loth to see the death of either, he threw his staff of peace between them; and coming down from the window where he stood into the field he desired them at his request to give over the fight. By gracious Lord, answered Recinde, that may we not consent unto unless the Damoisel that complained of Belcar, will first commit the injury he hath done her. My self will therefore persuade her, said the King. in mean while do you travel no further in this controversie, seeing you have both shewed sufficient and haughtie chivalry.

So went the King to the Damofel, who was wonder-  
full glad to see Belcar in fuch dangerous estate, as no  
Knight befoze had brought him in the like. Damofel (fayd  
he) feek not the death of two fo good Champions as thefe  
are, but (for my fake) pardon Belcar, if he have in ought  
offended, and I shall caufe him to make fuch amends, as  
your felf shall like well thereof: befide fuch courteffe shall  
you find at my hands, as happily shall yeeld occasion of  
chauns while you live. Hereto will I never confent,  
though I be (quoth he) and moze would the prefent death  
of Belcar content me, then if the whole Monarchy of the  
world were under my puiſſance, confidering the enorm  
and deteftable treason wherewith he villanouſly wronged  
my father and brethren, which makes me I cannot diſ-  
charge my Knight of his promiſe. The King with great  
inſtance intreated her again, and fo did all the Lords at-  
tending on him: but all was in vain, ſhe was fo reſolute  
ly grounded in her wickedneſs, as ſhe accounted it plea-  
ſure to be ſelf-willed therein. Whereupon, the Queen  
(heartily ſorry to ſee Belcar fo ſore wounded) underſtand-  
ing the obſtinate refusal of the Damofel: ſhe accompa-  
nied with the Dutcheſs of Pontus, and the Princeſs Alderina  
her daughter, came altogether and deſired her, to diſ-  
charge her Knight of his promiſe, and the Queen would  
entertain her amongſt the Ladies of Honour in her  
Court.

All theſe prayers and requests nothing availed, to move  
any pity in this inexorable Damofel; which the Queen  
perceiving, and that ſhe continued fo obſtinate in cruelty,  
ſhe made a ſolemn oath, that if ſhe did not preſently par-  
don the two Knights, (hearing a murmuring among the  
the people, how her accusations againſt Belcar were falſe  
and ſlandrous) that her ſelf ſhould die a moſt ſhameful  
death. The Damofel ſeeing the Queen ſo diſpleaſed, was  
aſſeais of her cauſe, and befide ſhe grieved to behold the  
Roars of late Alderina, wherefoze ſhe alighted from her pal-  
fray,

fray, and falling at the Queens feet, deſired her not to re-  
gard her great errour of ingratitude, which ſhe had ſhewed  
to the King her husband, in denying a matter conſiſting  
in her power: but for her Maſters ſake, ſhe was content  
to pardon both the Knights. The Queen embraced her in  
ſign of thanks, ſending word to Recinde, that he ſhould pro-  
ceed no further in battel. So the Damofel went with the  
Queen and her Ladies to the Pallace, and both the cham-  
pions accompanied the King, who bringing them to their  
chambers, commanded that his chief Phyſitians and Chi-  
rurgians ſhould give very diligent attendance to ſee their  
wounds healed.

Daily would the Queen, accompanied with the Dut-  
cheſs of Pontus, and the fair Princeſs Alderina her daugh-  
ter, come to viſit them, ſo that at length they reconciled the  
two Princes to amity; and ſhortly after, the Queen (in re-  
gard of her promiſe) cauſed the Damofel to be very honou-  
rably married, when Belcar made her openly confeſs, that  
her accusations were moſt falſe and untrue, in reſpect that  
he never ſaw any of her brethren, befoze that night where-  
in he was intreated by her father to lodge at his Caſtle.  
But leave we theſe, and let us now return again to our  
noble Knight Palmendos, whom we left preparing his  
voyage towards Turkie.



## CHAP. XXVI.

*Now after Palmendos and Ozalio embarked for Turkey, they landed at a Port near the Castle of Albayzo, where the King of Thessaly was kept prisoner: and how Palmendos intended to be at the Tourney, which was prepared for the marriage of the Captains son, and what was his success.*



After that Palmendos and Ozalio had left the Queen of Thessaly, and her daughter Francelina, they passed with all speed to their ship: the Mariners having in the time of their abode there, happened on a Turk left there in the Haven, by reason of extreame sickness, wherefore they of Thessalus, knowing him to be a Moor, took him into their ship and by the time of the Princes arrival, he had very well recovered his health. He understanding that Palmendos would sail into Turkey desired to grant him passage thither, and in recompence of that gentleness, he would direct him whither he pleased, because he knew all the Ports and creeks of the country, and most of the Cities and Towns on the land.

Palmendos joyfull of this good hap, accepted him for his patron and without concluding to what place they would first sail, he willed them to make toward the nearest port to the City of Tubant, demanding of the Turk if he knew any harbour of surety near that place. By Word (quoth the Turk) I will conduct you, if you please, into a Streight of the sea, which is very secret: where oftentimes ride others great vessels, and no other place of lodging is near at hand, but my fathers house onely, which standeth a days jour-  
ney

ney from Tubant, and the like from the Castle of Albayzo, where the great Turk at this present keeps the King of Thessaly and all his treasure, under the charge of a good Knight who is the Captain of the Castle, and this place he reputeth as the strongest hold in all the country. Moreover this dare I avouch for: that there is no part so little in all that country, but I know it as well by night as by day, even as perfectly as the port whereof I tell you: there may you abide in assurance and do what best your self shall please uncontroled by any, this will I make good for the great courtesie I have found. Palmendos seeing how fortune favoured him committed his conducting to the Turk who was named Oricano, when at length they came to the port near Tubant: then Oricano went on shore with the Knights, to take some order for their good entertainment: but finding not his father at home, intreated his mother and two brethren, who were not a little glad of his safe return, to use those Gentlemen so courteously as might be, expressing what kindness he had found at their hands.

Palmendos rejoiced that they were in a place so safe and secret, and near Albayzo Castle, where the King of Thessaly was detained in captivity, yet kept he on his rich black armour, which the Fairies left for him at the Castle of Cardenia, his good sword likewise he had by his side, where-with he could inebant and bring aliey any one by vntailing it forth: It was large and short as a woodknife or fanchion, most artificially damasked and garnished with three sorts of Diamonds, the whole sheath being composed of one, the most bar and pommel of an other, and the handle of the creature and precious Calamite that ever was seen, the blade of y finest tempered steel that could be in any sword: in brief the like weapon was hardly to be found through the world.

By this time Oricano's father was come home, who rejoicing to behold his son, showed very loving countenance

so the Princes for his sake: when amongst other talk *Palmendos* requested to know of the old man whence he came so late, whereto the poor man humbly thus answered. I come, sir, from a Town not far hence, whither I went in the morning to sell fish, because great number of Knights are assembled there, against the marriage of the Lords daughter, with the son to the Captain of *Albayzo Castle*; and I stayed the longer, to see the *Wyldegroom* and his Sister, who is reported to be the fairest woman in the world. By many great Princes she hath been requested in marriage, but she hath refused every one, saying she will never be married, but with him that can win her by martial prowess: for which cause many brave and gallant Knights are come thither, and on the third day of the feast have appointed a Journey for her love, the resort being so great to see this Lady, as if the great *Turk* with all his *Basiliques* and *Janizaries* kept Court there.

*Palmendos* attentively noting this tale, considered with himself, that if he could by subtil traits entice this Lady to leave, he might easily get into *Albayzo Castle*, whereto he should the better compass the Stratagem, to set the King of *Thessaly* at liberty. For this cause he determined to be present at the Journey, and in being acquainted *Ozilio* with his whole intent, who thought it the only way to work their enterprise. On the morrow *Palmendos* told the Father that he would make one in the *Joust*: so giving him good store of money, he prayed him to regard his ship and machinery till he returned, and so he set forth with *Ozilio* and *Orycano*, who served them faithfully during all this business.

Not far had they rid, but they met with a Page that attended on *Isida*, for so was the beautiful virgin named, the Captains daughter, and occasion of this triumph. *Palmendos* then asked him if the Journey held the day following. It doth, sir, (answered the Page) by general agreement, and so please you to be there, you shall see many things.

Many Knights enter the field, where I hope the partakers of *Ripole* (for so was the *Wyldegroom* called, shall bear away the honour of the day: and sundry brave champions will adventure for the love of *Isida* my Mistress, whereby they may gain the better mean to offer her their service, intending therefore to be on her brothers side, who is the chief man in this enterprise.

The Prince calling to mind the perfections of *Francelina*, breathed forth a sigh that came from his very soul: and on the other side he was marvellous glad, that he had so fortunately met with the Ladies Page: and being desirous to gain some acquaintance with her, he spake to the youth in this manner. Gentleman, I think the graces of your Mistress to be so amiable, as in one instant they are sufficient to captivate all such as behold her, and therefore I can assure you, that with the better will and more sincere affection is he provided to her service, that never saw her; which I speak on mine own behalf, who abandoning the place of my original, have with insupportable travels crossed many Countreys, onely to come let her understand my extreme devotion, to be her perpetual and faithful servant, whereto the renown of her beauty induced me, which I think is spread over the face of the whole earth. And seeing my hap was so good to meet with you, albeit you know me not, nor have I yet deserved any thing at your hand: yet let me intreat you to do one favour for me, the issue whereof, beside your achievement of notable reputation in debonaire courtesie, which all of your young years ought to have in singular commendation: I hope I shall let you sufficiently perceive, that you deal not for an ingratefull person, nor will ye mislike your travel in the cause.

What would you have me do? answered the Page, in respect you seem a man of virtue and quality: if it be a thing possible for me and honourable, I will with all my heart accomplish it. A thousand thanks for your kindness.

nese (answered Palmendos) and for nothing else is my suit, but that you would say to your Lady Mistress, how that a strange Gentleman, which came into this Countrey onely to see her graces and vertues, most humbly commends himself to her favourable opinion, earnestly desiring that she would accept him as her Knight in the Tourny, where to morrow he intends to shew himself, as one that will over-balance her most laboured in weight of affection, and will be accounted second to none in exploits of Arms, having no better mean, whereby to acquaint her with the insupportable burthen of his heart: and that she may well perceive it, I will not be on her brothers side, but against them that take his part, hoping to send them vanquished out of the field, or make them glad to take their heels, by the strength and hardiness her divine beauty shall give me, so please her to grant me the aforesaid labour; and which will cause me to account my self the most happy Knight on whom the planets have breathed their celestial influence.

The Page seeing Palmendos fair, and so richly armed, imagined him to be some great personage, wherefore he nobly thus replied. My Lord, this dare I not do for any man living without I knew the party to have some familiarity with my Mistress: nevertheless, bring a matter of so small consequence, and that you deserve much more then this on my behalf, I shall deliver her this message for your sake who have so importunately requested it. Palmendos requited the page with many thanks, and to make him the more forward in the matter, he took a bracelet of gold from his arm, and gave it him. So beguiling the time with other speeches, at length they arrived at Prisa (for so was the Town called where the triumphs were appointed) the field being covered all over with costly pavilions, wherefore Palmendos made choice of a convenient place, and there commanded his rich Tent to be presently erected. Mean while the Page courteously took his leave, and

entring the town, went straight to his Mistresses lodging, where having first dispatched the answer sent from her sister, and seeing her so conveniently apart from her Damoisels, he rehearsed all that Palmendos had said unto him. I wonder (quoth she) what the Knight should be, that durst send me such a presumptuous message, seeing he saith he is a stranger, and for my love hath forsaken his Countrey. Believe me Madam (answered the Page) no, do I know him, but he seemeth to be descended of great parentage, and is one of the goodliest personages that ever I saw; as for his courtesie and liberality, behold Mistress what a costly bracelet he hath given me, that never old any thing for him in all my life.

She thinks this is very strange (replied Mida) that this Knight should come from far Countreys to see me; and very ingratefull might I be reputed, if I should not thank him for so great pains; therefore sail not but shew me him to morrow, so soon as he doth enter the Lists, that I may give good heed to his behaviour. Verena (quoth the Page) will I accomplish your command, because right well I know him by his rich Armour, as also the lusty Courser he rode on yesterday. Thus made the Page a train for love, which afterward reached to the heart of his Mistress, where having kindled the fire her self, she set the sparks so to leap about her imaginations, as all this night she could enjoy no rest, for thinking on the Knight that came from far Countreys.

## CHAP. XXIII.

*Now Palmendos came to the Turkey appointed for Issida, where he won her by his Knightly Chivalry, and by that occasion obtained her love. And how they spake together by the means of their Ambassador, so that Palmendos and Ozalio easily entered the Castle of Albayza.*



**P** the morrow, which was the appointed day of the triumph: Issida decked her self in most sumptuous ornaments, and after dinner came with the Bride and others other Ladies, to the scaffolds and pavilions prepared for them in the field. When assembled the Knights on all sides, and

entered the Lists, each one to shew his prowess, but because the greater part were on the Bridegrooms side, therefore the contrary went apace to wack, and the other were barely judged to bear the prize out of the field, if Palmendos and Ozalio had not suddenly arrived. For they knew better how to handle their weapons than the Knights of this Countrey did, and that they made them very well perceive, chiefly Palmendos, who did marvellous exploits, as Issida (without any instruction of her Page) knew well enough the man that sent her the message; whereat both she and all the beholders were amazed, to see him play the Devil so among the Knights, that no one dealt with him but was unhorsed. When they saw there was no more work to do, they withdrew themselves into their tent, and would not unarm themselves, lest some treachery should be practised against them, as oftentimes at such occasions it happeneth, when the vanquished attempt unhonourably against the

the Conquerours. When Ripole saw his Knights discomfited, he was exceedingly agreed therewith, because he entirely loved his sister Issida, and doubted she would not combat him of great dishonour: but she, whose mind was no where else then on the Knight to whom the victory was due, extolled his admirable magnanimity to the heavens, as the rest of the Victory will plainly discover, and knowing no better mean to work by, she called the Page aside, whom the Prince had imployed as his Ambassador, and thus she spake to him. Unspeakable (in mine opinion) is the generosity of the Gentleman stranger, who hath right well performed the resolution whereof by thee he assured me yesterday: very necessary it is therefore that thou go thank him on my behalf, for his long journey and great pains taken for my sake: beseege, as he hath sufficiently shewed me his fortune in deeds of arms, so do I desire secretly to see his person; in which request to satisfy me, if he will this night come to my brothers banquet, which is provided for the new married couple, I shall not fail to esteem him among my chiefest favourites.

While every one was busily censuring on the Conquerour, the messenger from Issida came to Palmendos Tent, where briefly discharging what he was commanded, and the Prince marvellous glad of this good fortune, thus answered.

Gentleman, I desire you to tell your Lady that nothing shall make me disappoint her pleasure, because the only occasion of my long travel, was extreme desire to offer her my service, and right happy shall I account my self, if she will imploy me in any thing to her content. As for the Bridegrooms banquet, me thinks should argue over much boldness. In respect of the slender acquaintance and habitude which as yet I have with him, or any of his company: notwithstanding I would willingly be there after the banquet, to guide mine eye to the place where they might feed on the celestial and gracious countenance of your

Mistress, yet with this intreaty before hand, that I would not be known to any what I am. And if it happen I may confer a little with her in secret. I will tel her such things as all the rest of her life time shall yield her contentment on, wherein likewise if you will be loyal and favourable to me, to compass both her good and your own: your guesdon happily will be such, as you will a hundred and a hundred times think the hour fortunate, when by so good chance you met me on the way, for though you see me here but in simple equipage, and as a knight errant I am the Lord of many Provinces, great estates and wonderfull riches. My Lord (answered the Page) right willingly will I adventure my person, in doing you all the faithfull service can be devised, the actions no way stretching to the dishonour of me and my Lady: and such good order will I likewise take, as you shall not be known to any, but onely her that longeth to see you.

Whereupon *Palmendos* unarmed himself, and putting on a Turkish mantle, taking his good sword under his arm, he and *Ozalio* went with the Page into the great Hall, where the banquet was: afterward they closely got to a convenient place, where both *Issida* and he might behold each other which, he did but with faint and deluding looks, only to add some grace to his subtil determination, which he had practised for the King of *Thesalies* deliberance. And while in this counterfeit contemplation he busied his eyes, the Page cunningly went to *Issida*, and whispering in her ear, said. See, *Madam*, the conquering Knight of the *Conurey*, who desires you very instantly, to concreat him onely to your self, in that his trabel hither was to no other end, but to see if your gracious gifts and beauty were answerable to the renown blazed thereof so far hence in his Countrey, hoping to compass the matter so, (for to me he hath opened the very secrets of his heart) that when you have further knowledge of him, you shall not onely have occasion to love him, but account your self likewise beholding

ding to him in respect of the voluntary pain he hath suffered for your sake. The rest of his speeches I shall acquaint you with at better leisure, in place more convenient for such discourse.

*Issida* who was prudent and well advised did forbear to confer longer with her new solicitor, least her love should be lightly espied by any: then secretly she glanced on *Palmendos*, whose thoughts were busie to compass his intent and seeing him so pensive, she immediately interpreted this Saturnine taciturnity to her own advantage, thinking it proceeded from the ravishment of her beauty, as her Embassadour had before perswaded her: herewith she judged in him more elegance of form and sweetness of complexion, then in any other Knight whatsoever, which made her so espoused with his attracting regard as to allay the extremity of this heat, she desired nothing more then to speak with him, that she might be resolved of whence and what he was. *Palmendos* stirred not from his place, nor thought he long of his stay there because he hoped to gather some fruit thereby: but warily marks the amorous looks of *Issida*, and how her eye was the messenger of her inward desire, all which he covertly imparted so *Ozalio*, who moved not one foot from his dear friend.

They fearing lest their long stay would cause suspicion went their way, which made *Issida* likewise repair to her chamber, and calling the minister of her love aside, began in this manner.

My Page, how truly dost thou discover the perfections of the strange Knight, whose behaviour and discreet modesty, joined with his rare and martiall prowess, makes me repute him for the chiefest man, that ever came into this Countrey. *Madam* answered the young Councellour If you would see innumerable vertues conjoined in one body, I beseech you hasten your speaking with him and let not the happy hour miscarry through your default, which the fatal destinies have so graciously appointed: his lovely

speeches shall acquaint you with his indowment, which you may behold so correspondent in every point, as you can wish & nothing but is to be found in him. How should I speak with him said Irida, without impeach to my honour, which hitherto I have carefully regarded, unless it be by thy means in some secret place, free from the hurt of suspected persons, wherewith the world is now mightily storied? I shall tell you how Adam answered the page; you know my Lord your father willed you the other day, that you should return to him with all possible speed, which will serve as a fit occasion, to take your honest farewell of this company: if then you will depart hence to morrow toward evening, you may lodge by the way at my mothers house, whither I will go before with the two Knights, and cause her to say that they be both her Nephews, who now are friendly come to visit her, so may you confer together at your pleasure. The invention is good answered Irida, yet must you be very circumspect herein, that the drift of our intent be not discovered.

The complot thus concluded, the Page went in the morning to Palmendos, and making him not a little glad with this news, caused both the friends to mount on horse back, and set forward with him to his mothers house, seated in a pleasant place between Tubant and the Castle of Albayzo. When the Gentlewoman saw the two Knights, she was much abashed, but her son soon resolved her in every point: and that she might boldly call them her Nephews her self being a stranger born far from that country. The mother being thoroughly instructed by her son, desired their intent might take good success, whereupon the Page returned to his Mistress who had in this while so well ordered her departure, as the new married, nor any other could gather suspicion: then forward she sets for her journey had hast, so surely had love seized on her heart, having no other company with her, then her four waiting handmaids, and two squires of her fathers.

How

by Paw is she come unto the long desired place, where being very graciously entertained, both by Palmendos and Ozalio, as also the Pages mother, Irida being not to learn her lesson, desires to know what Knights they were, that so friendly saluted her. They are (quoth the Pages mother) my two Nephews, who having not seen me of long time, are come to know if they may stand in any stead: as also to offer their service to my Lord your father, if in any thing it shall please him to employ them. Might heartily wellcome are they answered Irida, and of duty I must needs thank them for the good will they bear my Lord and father for which cause, as also their near alliance to you, I love them as they were my proper brethren.

Palmendos coming to her with great reverence, gave her humble thanks for her honourable kindness, and while they spent the time about other familiar conference, supper was set on the table in a pleasant Arbour, where Irida could digest no meat, her eyes were so busied in beholding her champion, after ward they walked up and down the garden; and she seeing the pages mother was deep in talk with Ozalio, as one loth to lose so good an opportunity, she beginneth with Palmendos in this manner.

I cannot but marvel at my self, (said Irida) that being nothing touched with the love of sundry Gentlemen which heretofore have divers times offered me their service, my heart should be you (whom I never saw before these two days past) so vehemently be provoked to love, so that I cannot hear or think on any thing, but it is broken or refuted by the remembrance of you: let me then treat you not to repute me as careless of my chastity, or forgetfull of the modesty becoming a Virgin; for the worthy behaviour I see couched in your incomparable personage, hath fatally deprived me of my former liberty, and elected me wholly your captive; not doubting but you will so esteem of your conquest, as not to impeach the same by any dishonourable attempt, considering my noble birth and parentage.



parentage. And to satisfie my earnest longing desire, one-ly abould to have further knowledge of your estate, acquaint me with the secret considerations of your heart and what you will command me, in guerdon of the pains you have taken for my sake: wherein (my honour defended) I will yield that willingly to you, which none else but you can have of me.

Adam (answered Palmendos) I cannot expresse my high good fortune, finding such grace and courtesie at your hands, being on my part no way as yet deserved, but time may yield the due to every gentle mind, and make me able to requite such extraordinary labour. And think not sweet Souveraine of my heart, that in pittying the unsupportable burthen of my oppressions, you shall any way incur the detection of lightnesse, but rather of honourable and well-governed care, when you shall behold the place where, so I hope safely to bring you: for Adam, setting aside my simple outward appearance, I am a King borne, and Governour of sundry famous Provinces, and this attempt proceeded onely of religious zeal, to make you Lady of me and mine, as your wondrefull fame at first took the sober raigntye of my heart.

How can I worthy Word (quoth Ifida) but stand amazed; that you being a King and a man of so rare fortune in managing Arms, should come hither for so simple a damsel as my self, not worthy to cast mine eyes to such pre-ferment? yet not to dissemble with you as concerning my resolution, without my fathers consent, I neither may or will go hence with you, because it were both disobedience and injury to nature.

Notwithstanding, one thing I will do for you, which never heretofore I offered to any Knight I will bring you to my Father and tell him you are one of this Gentlewoman's Nephews, she being my Nurse in the time of mine infancy: to him must you offer your service, and no sooner shall he behold your knightly chivalry, but he will gladly accept

accept you as his Son: so with my Parents consent you may convey me hence, and in mean while I shall keep secret your estate, albeit it were good that you tell him the truth. Palmendos, who desired nothing but to get into the Castle, and to compass the same by any way he could, thus replied.

Adam, such is the extremitie of my vehement passions, as no one can recure them, but she from whom they took their Originall: nor do my vital spirits receive any force to execute their office, but from your gracious and gentle disposition: therefore I will go with you when you please to your Father, and say what you can best imagine, for the peaceable assurance and fruition of the good pretended.

These words he uttered with very chearfull countenance, by reason of the hope wherewith his heart was encouraged, seeing the paradise of his negotiation stand now on the terms himself desired: the Lady on the other side was so ravished with his love that she could not be satisfied with beholding him, or consent to forsake his company, till time of constraint came that they must to their lodgings where Ifida could not sleep through the whole night, her slumbers were so broken by the abundance and plurality of amorous discourse, which chased all other imaginations from her spirit.

In these extremes poor Ifida was tormented, a disease clean contrary to that which troubled Palmendos, who onely sought by dissimulation to recover the good King of Thellaly, whereof he conferred in bed with Ozalio, what stratagems and subtilties he must compass in the action; intreating him most affectionately, they having once gotten entrance into the Castle to shew himself hardy and valiant, putting every one to the sword when the watchword should be given. When the morning was come, Ifida decked her self in her brave accoutrements, and coming into the garden, found there 5 two Knights armed except their helmets

Helmets, she praying them to go with her to the Castle of Albayzo, that she might have the honour of presenting them to the Captain her Father.

This matter being soon concluded, they all mounted on horseback, and about noon arrived at the fortress, the foundation and structure whereof caused Palmendos to wonder, in that it was placed on a high and mighty rock and steepled with such munition for war, as it was thought impregnable. Being come to the gate, Issida lighted from her hackney and entered taking the knights by the hand, the Arches permitting them quietly passe, without any fear or further inquiry what they were, seeing them so well acquainted with fair Issida, whom the Captain loved so well as none might gain-say what she commanded.

Afterward the bridges were drawn, & the gates strongly barred according as they were wont to be. So the Princes entering the great Hall, Palmendos diligently looked about him, thinking each hour a year till the skirmish were fought in this strong Hold, thanking the heavens that had so well guided them thither.

## CHAP. XXVIII.

*How Palmendos and Ozalio slew the Captain of Albayzo Castle, and all the Guard that then kept it, taking the King of Thessaly forth of the Tower, where he had remained captive twenty years: and what did happen unto them in the meanwhile.*



When the Captain of Albayzo Castle (who was an honourable old man, and put in chief trust with the great Turks treasure, saw his daughter accompanied with two such brave knights, he was thereat exceedingly amazed: as if this occurrence had already presaged the conflict and cruel slaughter, which was immediately to follow in the Castle, wherefore he said. *Why daughter? how chancest it that you are come without your brother? My Lord (quoth she) the desire I had yesternight to see you, hastened my return in company of your two Squires, my four waiting damosels, and these two knights, who are both nephews to my purse, where I found them as I passed by that way; and hereof be assured good father, that this knight (pointing to Palmendos) is one of the most hardy and courteous Gentlemen that ever you knew. Whereof his victory in the turning at my brothers marriage, hath given me evident example, as also the honest speeches he hath used to me this morning, declaring his earnest desire to offer you his service: under hope whereof I have been his guide hither esteeming the acquisition of such a man rare, and of great consequence, and will chiefly help the strength of your charge.*

*He is the better welcome (answered the Captain) and in recompence of his good will, do I will command any cur-*

less as my hand. For all these words, he had other matters in his mind; and because his daughter praised him so much, so much the more willingly could he have spared his company in the castle, for that his presence made him mistrust and fear somewhat: yet to dissemble the matter, and take away all occasion of contrary mistrust, with a counterfeited merry countenance, he said.

Go vaughters and salute thy mother, mean while these knights shall be unarmed: which words he spake to be assured of their Armour and weapons, intending they should not have them again till they were forth of the Castle. But *Palmendos* hearing these words, began to mistrust their interpretation, and therefore thought best not to use any more speeches; but going with *Iffida*, Page into a fair chamber, in stead of unarming themselves, they clasped on their helmets and taking their shields with resolute courage, came forth having their good swords ready drawn, *Palmendos* now intending to try the vertue of his enchanted sword, or else to put both their lives in danger.

The Page seeing this sudden alteration, fallen into as great a quandary as if he had been new metamorphosed, began to cry out very piteously, fearing this an abominable and scelerous disloyalty; wherewith he ran down to advertise the Guard thereof, but they themselves were not far behind him, because *Palmendos* knew this enterprise was not to be deferred, therefore he and *Ozario* came into the Castle Court, where they found the Captain threatening the guard, that they had so lightly suffered the knights to enter: but they excused themselves on *Iffida*, who brought them with her: wherewith the Captain turning about, and seeing them come in such fury, he cried to the Guard, saying, Make Arms my loyal and faithfull knights, and let us murder these false villains, who have beguiled us so treacherously.

*Palmendos* having instructed *Ozario*, to keep sure the gate

gate that none might issue forth, or more rescue come in, remembering his sweet Lady *Francelina*, determined to die or deliver her father from imprisonment.

Now makes he proof of his sword charmed by the *Faries*, which as he lifted about head, caused every one that came against them sleepily to stagger, and when they offered to strike with their weapons, they fell down as though they had been in a sound sleep, being all in that case deprived of their lives, both the Captain, the Guard, and the rest that could be found except the Turk who guided them by sea, and the Page that came with these news to *Iffida*, saying, Alas *Adam*, we are all betrayed by the false knights that entered the Castle with us: right worthy am I of a thousand deaths, in that your father and all the guard have lost their lives by my means.

When *Iffida* and her mother heard these uncouth news, they came down as women distressed of their wits, and seeing this lamentable massacre, she fell down on her fathers dead body, uttering these words. Oh my good Lord and father, pardon me that was the cause of this thy death, and seeing innocently I have been so circumvented by a false Traitor, my life shall presently follow thee at the heels, to accomplish thy obsequies with more solemn pomp and ceremonies. Wherewith she offered to run her head against a marble pillar, but *Palmendos* came and stayed her, when she being greatly offended thereat, raging against him, thus spake.

Thou cruel, false and disloyal knight, seeing thou hast slain my father and his chiefest friends, why dost thou not also send me to bear them company? Tell me thou bloody *Barbarian*, what did move thee to repay my fathers fall love with such extreme rigour? How durst thou deceive me so treacherously considering what favour I showed thee on so small acquaintance? With gentle and dissembling speeches, thou secretly saidst thou wast a King: but if thou be one, it is of Robbers and Thieves, and art

come hither to steal the great Emperours treasure. Miserable and unhappy that I was in giving credit to such false persuasions, the end whereof testeth to such monstrous effect.

All such as heretofore have known me, imagined me wise and discretely inclined, henceforth they may well learn me a dissolal daughter, being the onely cause of my fathers death: But though unwittingly I have been deceived, yet will I complain on Fortunes instability, that by the report of I know not what, frivolous and vain ostentation should so easily change my heart. But what will the mighty Emperour of Turkey say, when he shall understand the truth of this daughter, wrought onely for the stealing hence of his treasure? Foolish and miserable girl that I am, why did not I remember the sundry injuries his Majesties brother sustained by the Emperour Palmerein of Constantinople, when he travelled the world as a knight errant? had I but remembered those stratagems, they would have forewarned me from affecting this stranger: yet if the fatal decree made me so soon subject to him, why could he not labour me with my fathers life?

Palmendos little regarding her injurious speech, desired her to be better pacified, promised if she would depart with him, to set the Crown of Tharsus upon her head, which he would give to his Cousin Ozalio, and join her in marriage with him if she pleased. Whereupon he assured her, that he would not take any thing out of the Castle, but the King of Thessaly whose deliberance could not be compassed by any intreaty, and therefore he ransomed him with the lives of so many.

O Mahomet (cried Iffida at these words) why sufferest thou Christians to make such incursions on thy people and Countreys? Why dost thou create and appoint women so near to men, seeing that for them they pass through innumerable torments? The brother to our great Emperour the Turks, was cruelly murdered by the means of a woman,

woman and now by me to his Captain my father brought to the like end his prisoner likewise the King of Thessaly thereby delivered: How can I but loath and despise my life being hemmed in on every side with such monstrous affliction?

Needless is it now to remember mortal incumbrances, or to think on the wars which Hecione and Helena caused between the Greeks and Trojans: Lavinia between Aeneas and Turnus, or Deianira between Hercules and Achelous, and afterward among the Centaurs: For the Wars which will spring by these new occasions ere long time be spent I fear will be so horrible and infamous, that they will deface the memory of them done so long ago. Afterward the mother and her daughter ran full into on Palmendos, labouring to do him what injury they could: but he (unwilling to hurt them) suffered their violence, till Ozalioes Squire seeing their impatience, and fearing lest their knives they would in the end murder him, took up one of the Guards hatchets, and therewith beheaded the mother of her life.

Iffida extremely raging at this greivous spectacle, rent her hair from her head, and with her nails most cruelly martyred her fair face: then being suddenly surprized with a raging apoplexie, she presently died without using any more speeches. The Page greivous to behold this wofull accident, determined not to live any longer after her: But first upon the wall he wrote certain dolorous verses, which afterward were converted to a funeral ditty, in this manner.

**D**ead is the bud of Beauties chief delight,  
The fairest flower on whom the Sun did shine,  
The choice belov'd of many a famous Knight,  
The pride of Honour, precious and divine:  
The lovely Maid of whom the Nymphs did sing,  
That Nature never fram'd so rare a thing.

Had *Paris* seen this wondrous piece of Art,  
Proud *Venus* had not carried Beauties prize;  
*Pallas* and *Juno* would have stood apart,  
To see their gifts one Virgin royalize:  
In every point surpassing curious,  
Had Fate and Fortune been as gracious.

Ungentle star that domineer'd the day  
When first my Lady Mistress breath'd this air,  
What angry object stood then in the way,  
To cross the course that was begun so fair?  
You lowring heavens, why did ye oppress  
The Saint whom you so many ways did bless.

But wretch, why stand'st thou charging these with guilt,  
And art thy self the Authour of this ill?  
Thou hapless Boy thy Ladies blood hast spilt,  
Thy Master and his servants thou didst kill.  
When first thou travell'dst for this trochleus man,  
Even in that hour these miseries began.

But Sovereign Love, immortal and divine,  
Whose gracious name did shadow this abuse;  
Canst thou permit before thy holy eye,  
This heinous deed exempt from all excuse?  
O mighty Love, what will thy Subjects say,  
If foul offence go unreveng'd away?

Stand

Stand I expostulating this or that,  
When on my back the weighty burthen lies;  
Wast no more time with vain and idle chat,  
But for this fault be thou a sacrifice.  
Fair *Iffida* thy Page doth follow thee,  
The onely engine of this Tragedy.

These verses fixed upon the wall by the Squire, he ran hastily and caught up a sword from one of the statue knights, and setting the point thereof against his heart, said. If you (Madam by my means have received this fortune, reason requires that for your sake I should endure as much; and with these words he fell upon the sword.

This was the second act of the tragical Comedy begun at *Prissi*, and thus after continued in the Theater of *Albaizo*, where all they of the Castle miserably ended their lives, except three or four damosels and their waiting women: who likewise were so amazed at this lamentable spectacle, as they thought themselves half deprived of life. *Palmendos* being stricken in a dunnyp by these accidents, stood a good while not able to speak a word, which his cousin *Ozario* perceiving, and marvelling at his alteration, he came and comforted him in this sort My Lord, you must now leave all dunnypish musing, and rejoice for your good successe in this attempt; never trouble your thoughts with other imaginations, but let us determine our departure hence, before the matter be further manifested, otherwise we may fall in danger a hundred times more to be feared, then were we inclosed in the inextricable Labyrinth.

Your reason is good, cousin (answered *Palmendos*) wherefore presently we will go seek for the prison, wherein my Lord the King hath been kept so long: after they had searched a good while in vain, at length they found him in a strong Tower, bound with huge bars of iron, he be-

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ing so lean, wrinkled, pale and wan, as they marvelled to see him so withered away.

Palmendos beholding him in this grievous plight, remembering this was the father to his best beloved *Francelina*, compassion caused the tears to trickle down his cheeks; but the King not perceiving this humanity, rather amazed to see these words so bloody, thought they were come to end his miserable and distressed life, wherefore he willingly prepared himself thereto, saying. Sovereign redeemer of humane nature, to thee I commend my soul, which must now leave this loathsome prison; be thou then my intercessour to thy mercifull Father, having so patiently for my sins suffered punishment in this wretched place: And seeing he hath reputed my body unworthy of longer being in this life, be thou my gracious mediator for my soul, that in his judgement it be not banished from eternal felicity promised to the good.

This prayer having stopt the passage of Palmendos speech, *Ozario* used these words to the King. My Lord, be not dismayed, we come not hither to offer you any outrage, but to deliver you from this thralldom, and carry you with us to Constantinople, where you shall find your Queen and fair daughter *Francelina*, by whose means your troubles have now taken end, and there they stay onely for your coming.

Afterward he declared the whole success of the action; unbraking the bars of the little wicket, took him forth of that dark prison wherein he had remained twenty years, such marvellous hatred did the great Turk bear him. Yet could he not be certainly resolved of his liberty, till he saw the Captain and the rest that were slain, when embracing the Knights, he thanked God and them for his happy deliverance.

Palmendos thought it necessary to make no longer stay there, wherefore commanding one of their Squires to fetch a good horse out of the Captains stable, they caused the King

King to mount thereon: then remembering the former speeches of *Isida*, he would not suffer any thing else to be carried from the Castle.

## CHAP. XXIX.

*How the King of Thessaly departing with Palmendos from the Castle of Albayzo, they met the great Turks daughter by the way, whom the Prince carried thence by the vertue of his Sword. And how Rippole having taken order for the burial of them that were slain, he went to complain thereof to the great Turk.*



Palmendos remembering his return to Constantinople, and doubting how he might safely get away from the Castle of Albayzo, he caused all the Gentlewomen that were left alive to be locked in one chamber: and so soon as it waxed dark, leaving the great gates wide open, and the watch

down, they all rode away, *Oricano* being their guide as he was before. About midnight they came to the Pages mothers house, where among the trees in the Garden, they espied others lighted torches, and a sumptuous bed in the midst of the Arbour, at which sight not marvelling a little, they stayed there a while: but Palmendos desirous to be further satisfied herein, gave his horse to *Oricano*, and drawing his virtuous Sword, charmed all that were in the Garden fast asleep, by which means he came to the rich beds side, wherein he saw a very beautiful Lady. Her name was *Marencida*, eldest daughter to the great Turk, and wife to the King *Ocurites* of Culaquil, whom Palmendos found near the gulf of Tanais and Meotides: the now



journeying to recreate her self with her mother at a fair Castle not far from this place, whither she went three days before in great anger from the Court, because the great Turk loved another of his Concubines better then her. Marcicida mourning for the taking of the King her husband, craved leave of the great Turk her father, that she might go visit her mother for seven or eight days, where with her she might bear a share of her grief and heaviness: For parting from the Court honourably accompanied and alighting at this pleasant bower to refresh her self because the night suddenly presented her, she commanded the Grooms to prepare her bed for that night in the Arbour, her Ladies, Gentlewomen and Guard being all there about her. Palmendos having with his sword charmed all her attendants: sleep approached near the beds side, when the Princess thinking on her husbands imprisonment, gave many grievous sighs from the depth of her heart, cursing the Knight that took him, as also Constantinople for unjustly detaining him; and to these mournfull regrets added these speeches.

My noble Lord Oh that I had some sure and legal person, that might conduct me to the place where thou art, to the end my longing mind might be satisfied with the sight of thee, and these two sources of tears stayed from further streaming over; for living here my griefs grow intolerable, and I abide the most desolate Lady in all Asia. O her lamentable speeches she uttered till nature no longer able to withstand the charges of dolourfulness, caused her to fall fast asleep; and Palmendos having heard what had passed, imagined that she was the great Turks daughter, wife to the King Ocurites, whom he sent to Constantinople. Where, for seeing all her Guard soundly sleeping, he folded down the bed clothes; and because the precious Calamite in his sword by nature dwelteth the body of man or woman to it, as the Advant both the Iron, the Lady presently arose into his arms; and being so kept asleep by his enchanted

ted sword, lay as quiet in his arms, as fair Daphne did with Phœbus, when Jupiter converted her into a Bay-tree. Wrapping her costly mantle about her, he departed safely from the guard, and coming where Oricano staid with his horse, made such shift as he mounted into the saddle, and so galloped to the rest of his company, who marvelled not a little that he had got so good a booty.

Great hast they made, till they got on shipboard when Palmendos laying her upon his bed, and using her reverently, because she was of such honour, he put up his virtuous sword into the sheath, when very soon after Marcicida awaked; and seeing her self in the company of strangers, crying out with fear, she said. Alas, where am I? what have I no one about me that I know? how came I so strangely into this place? Why Fortune, hast thou not yet afflicted me enough? are my stars grown into such hatred toward me, as in my sleep to seek my destruction? And what are you that have been so bold as to take me out of my bed? this audacious behaviour will return you no other guerdon, then the very sharpest death that can be devised. Advant answered Palmendos, from that we shall keep our selves so wel as we may; as for my self, I am a Knight of a Country far hence, and hearing by chance what mone you made for the captivity of the King your husband, as also how desirous you seemed to see him in Constantinople, I was greatly moved to pity your affliction, and as one willing to pleasure you herein, as also what other thing you shall command me I took you forth of your bed, promising you by my religious vows to Chivalry, not onely to show you the King Ocurites, but also to guard your chastity incontaminate, as free from the least spot of dishonour as when you happened into my custody.

False and disloyal Knight (quoth she) how can I but receive shame and infamy by this treachery, having in such sort been taken from among my Guard? If I desired to see the King my husband, it was only to content my

mind;

mind, which is thereto mov'd with vehement affection: yet might my meaning be far enough from my words, because I could not do it without my father's licence, and more willingly would I end my life in this place, than go with thee of whom I can imagine no good thought, but as thou hast feloniously stoln me from my bed, so wilt thou hereafter traitorously murder me. I am neither thief or traitor (answered *Palmendos*) but a knight ready at your commandment: if so you take my service in good worth; and seeing you are now in my power determine to go with me willingly or perforce, and think not I intend your death, for it is far from my thought I promise you.

When began *Marencida* to fear her hate, which seemed as the golden wier, and beat her fair hands so white as the Alabaster, with out-cries as a Woman deprived of her senses: when the Prince pitying these feminine importunities, drew his sword, and to ease these extremities charmed her a sleep again. During this time, *Ozario* had told the King of Thessaly the whole news of his daughter *Francelina*, where to he gave good attention, because since the time of his imprisonment, he had not heard any thing as concerning the affairs of his Realm, or that the Queen his wife had any such daughter, wherefore the tears trickling down his face, he came and embraced *Palmendos*, saying, In sooth my son, all the grievous torments I have heretofore endured, seem nothing in respect of the comfort I now feel, that my unknown child shall enjoy a man so vertuous, and for this Ladies taking I am likewise glad, because by this mean I shall be sufficiently revenged on the Turk. Thus both God (answered *Palmendos*) shew himself a just Judge, and the true director of all humane actions, limiting every occasion according as best him pleaseth, but we were best to make what speed we can hence, else may we repent our committing among these intractable tyrants. *Marencida* awaking again, and not persuaded with all the courteous entertainments he could devise,

she

she still continued her former acclamations, not unlike *Ariadne* at the coming of *Bacchus*, when she was found forsaken by *Theseus* at the sea-side: in like sort did she renew her maledictions, invocating on *Neptune* and *Thetis*, as also the *Tritons*, their *Uralos*, *Monsters*, *Stymphs*, and *Sirens*, that she might suffer shipwreck in the sea, and the fishes feed on her unhappy carcase. But *Ozario* pitying her dolorous complaints, and finding his heart somewhat espiz'd with her love, intreated *Palmendos* to grant him one request. which above all things else he required at his hands, when the Prince yielding unto any thing his cousin would demand, *Ozario* proceeded in this manner.

My fate is (worthy Lord and cousin) to enjoy this Lady as my wife, to whom I know the bestitudes have fatally reserved me, considering the sudden change, and inexplicable contrivance my heart indureth: whereas the continual accompanying of beautiful Ladies heretofore, could never move my frozen affections, and now I feel them not warm but boiling. Gladly may you (quoth *Palmendos*) obtain this demand of me, if nothing else stand in the way to hinder it, and as much do I desire your advancement, as any way I can be covetous of mine own, hoping while I live to see no divorce between us, but that our estates shall continue equally together, and in witness of my words, I deliver you the charge of this Princess, hereafter to dispose of her according to your desires. *Ozario* now uses all decent courtesies to *Marencida*, thereby to gain favour in her conceit: yet all was in vain, for she would not afford him any good countenance, but remain in her wonted obstinacy.

When the poor fisherman understood by his son *Oricano*, how his guests had delivered the King of Thessaly out of *Albayzo* castle, he thought it no longer carrying for him in *Turkey*, wherefore he came and intreated the Prince *Palmendos*, that he might sail with him into Chalkidom,

which

which suit was very soon obtained; so he, his wife and family came all aboard the ship the Prince promising to reward their gentleness liberally.

Now let us come to the Guard, and them that attended on Marcenida. who waking, and not finding their Lady in her bed, began to chafe and rage in most extreme manner; some rending their hair and beards violently, others running mad among the Trees, thinking she had been metamorphosed in the Garden; nor could they imagine how to escape the danger, when the great Turk should hear of this mishap. These comfortless creatures thus amazed, not any one of them daring to go tell the Emperour hereof, they determined to fly the Country, and return no more to the Court, leaving Marcenidas Ladies and Gentlewomen mourning in that unhappy place, where (about noon) Ripole brother to Isida arrived, returning from the wedding with his wife and others by a knight: but when he understood the cause of their sorrow, he was stricken into such a quagmire, as he would pass no further before he enquired more of this event. In the mean while he sent a squire to Albayza Castle, to advertise his father of his coming; and the squire prancing up to the Fortress, marvelled to see the gates wide open, but much more when he saw the slaughter of the knights, and the Captain himself lie slain among them: now was he surprized with such fear, as he had not the heart to tarry there any longer, but trusting to the speedy succour of his horse legs, galloped with all speed to his Master; where standing a while, as a man beside himself, at length he thus spake.

Harsh on me (my Lord) in declaring a bloody and tragical report, your worthy father, and all the guard of the Castle, he cruelly murdered in the base Court; and because I found the great gates open I doubt the treasure and riches in the Castle hath occasioned this massacre by some robbers and thieves. Ripole hearing these unlooked for news, was terrified in such sort as he could not tell what to

to say, but mounting on a lusty courser, he rode to the Castle, the Gentlemen bringing his wife safe and softly after. But when he beheld this woeful spectacle, and what a butchery Palmendos sword had made, his servants feared he would have followed in this hard fortune. Nor can I here set down the rueful money which Ripole made over his father, mother and sister; no doubt they were as strange and irksome as this accident: but when they had searched through the Castle, and found nothing wanting but the King of Thessaly, they judged the authors of this tyranny to be Christians, and that they likewise had carried away the Queen Marcenida.

After he had taken order for interring the dead, he rode immediately toward the great Turk, having heard of Isidaes Parle, all that had hapned between her and the two knights; and being come before the Emperour he fell at his feet, delivering the signs of an afflicted spirit, which onely sought for grace and mercy. At length he declared the substance of this weakfull occurrence, as well that of Marcenida his Majesties daughter, as the other of his fathers death and deliverance of the King of Thessaly, affirming his sister Isida to be the onely cause thereof, and by what trains she had been beguiled, himself being altogether innocent of the treason: notwithstanding, he freely offered himself at his gracious disposition, to abide whatsoever he would assign him. These words so wounded the Turk to the heart, as he remained silent a great while, anger having so locked up the passage of his speech: yet suddenly at length starting from his Chair, he railed on the Gods, Stars, devils, and all the infernal powers. Ah Mahomet (quoth he) dost thou art angry with me, or else dost take but little care of thy servants, that evermore have extolled thee above all other Gods and Prophets: but much I wonder thou wouldst thus forget me, unless thou wilt have me think thee extremely offended, or that the hope is vain and frustrate which is reposed in thee: Thou

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Stars,

stars, not inclined to favour me, but rather affecting my total ruine, wherein have I so hainously offended that you should take so sharp and rigorous vengeance on me? What may this presage to me hereafter, but some great misfortune and sudden mutation in Asia? Yet will I so carefully fore-see these affairs, as the seditious performers of this villany shall not carry it away so lightly.

Like sorrows made this Infidel sor his mishap. When many of his knights without attending other commandment, got ready ffortie Gallies, and other vessels for war, to pursue the causers of this tragical accident; but their labour was spent in vain, albeit not long after they heard the truth of all; which procured such hatred betwixen the Turks and the Greeks, as they ceased not, till with hostility they had invaded Greece; but it was not during the reign of the Emperour Palmerin, or any of his race or next posterity; for while they lived, the Turks durst not stir against them: yet long time after, when Ottoman a fierce and proud Prince governed, infinite evils happened in Europe, where he took and sacked many good cities, towns and castles. Now would the great Turk not suffer Ripole to be further tormented, because he was found altogether innocent in the action; but sent him back to the Castle of Albayzo, making him Captain thereof, as his father was before. And long time continued he sad and melancholy, thinking he had received wonderfull dishonour by the loss of his daughter Marcenida; nor should he ever recover the same, till Greece were beaten flat to the ground, and the Emperour Palmerin with all his kindred utterly destroyed. Where in these ragings we will leave him, and return to our purpose.

## CHAP. XXX.

*How Palmendos with his company arrived at Constantinople, where the Emperour came and received them at the Port; what speeches he had with the Queen Marcenida, after they were come to the Palace; how joyfully likewise the Queen of Thessaly and Francelina her daughter, welcomed home the King her father.*

**T**HE Partners cheerfully hoisting their sails, left the coast of Turkie, and launched into the main sea, having the wind and weather so favourable, as without any impeachment they attained the Bosphore of Thrace, where Palmendos sent his cousin Ozalio before to the Emperour, that the King of Thessaly might be entertained with honour befitting so great a Prince. Ozalio in quick speed in a swift little Pinnace, being landed, went directly to the Palace, and finding the Emperour in the great Hall, conferring with his Lords about the enchanted Wood, which that morning had delivered many pleasant notes. Wherefore he expected some comfortable news, when Ozalio falling on his knee, began in this manner.

Wise Lord, I am the servant and friend to the noble Palmendos, whose renown hath heretofore been blazed in this Court, and he humbly intreateth your Highness by me that you would entertain the King of Thessaly, whom he hath brought from Turkie, with such grace and honour as becometh his dignity: By this time I think they are entered the haven, in that they were not far off when I left them, I being sent before to acquaint your Majesty herewith. The Emperour exceeding joyfull at these news, rose and embraced Ozalio very graciously, and causing all his

Knights and Barons to prepare themselves, said, that he would go to the Port in person to welcome them.

Right soon were these tidings buzzed through the Court, wherewith the Emperors and her Ladies were highly pleased, especially the mourning Queen of Thessaly for her husbands return, and fair Francelina for her lovely friend, whose absence made her imagine every hour a year: wherefore in haste they got them before to the Port: attended on by their Ladies and Gentlewomen, where Palmendos being newly come on shore with the King, thus spake to him. Behold my good Lord, your Queen and daughter, who are joyfully come to salute your arrival. But when he looked on Francelina, the whole quire of heaven was present in his thoughts. The Queen very earnestly beheld the King her husband, when seeing his hair and beard so strangely over-grown, beside, his skin and complexion so wonderfully altered, as doubtful in mind, she came to him with these words. Are you (my Lord) the King of Thessaly, for whom my heart hath suffered exceeding grief? I pray you resolve me presently without holding me in longer suspence, in that your deformed estate hath greatly perplexed my remembrance.

Nabam (answered the King) it is no marvel though you know me not, considering the long time since you saw me last, which the integrity of our love hath made us imagine of greater compass. although the accustomed revolution of years, do not diminish or increase one moment in their natural course: notwithstanding, I am the same King your husband, who have felt more passions for your absence, then anguish or torment in my miserable captivity. But seeing the immortal bounty hath suffered me once again to see you, before my soul forsake this passible body, which was my continual desire during my tribulation: now care I not though Death presently do his duty; for seeing the circle of your arms have embraced me, I am the readier for my mother Earth to receive me.

Now

Now are joyfull tears plentifully poured forth on all sides, and embracings so vehement, as though they should never unfold again, the liberty of speech being hindered all this while; for Palmendos and Francelina were transported into a second heaven, where the outward ceremony served to confirm the inward contentation, at length the Queen taking Francelina by the hand thus spake to the King. See here (my Lord) your daughter, of whom I was but newly conceived when you went from Thessaly, happy and fortunate may she justly be termed, in that her destiny hath delivered you from prison, restored me my former joy and given her the most perfect Knight that ever bare Arms.

When the King beheld his daughter so late and gracious, he took her in his arms, expressing with silent favours his hearty joy: and in this while the Emperour came with his train, alighting from his horse to welcome the King of Thessaly, whom when he beheld so spent and disfigured, the tears fell from his eyes, and embracing him in his arms, said.

My noble brother, heaven have the honour for delivering you from our common enemy; where albeit heretofore I was glad of your rescue, yet was I agrieved at your imprisonment, being then my self (as you know) in the Marks power, although he gave me more liberty then you, in hope I would have aided him with my uttermost ability: My desire then to get from his service, constrained me to deal somewhat hardly against you, an error too notable, and I confess worthy reprehension: but God pardoning the offences of the repentant hath in pity regarded us both, and by his inexhaustible goodness, directed all things to a happy end.

My Lord (replied the King) the whole discourse thereof have I heard by Palmendos, which gives me reason not to think any fault in you, when you could not otherwise help the same: But let us leave occasions past, seeing heaven hath so miraculously delivered me, that I should come

my

my self to present the entire affection wherewith I am bound to your Highness service. For could any thing in the world (said the Emperour) more delight me, then your companying with the knight I have so long desired to see; with whom I cannot but be offended (these words he merrily uttered) in that he hath tarried so long time from me. When Palmendos falling on his knee, modestly answered in this manner. Dear Lord, if heretofore I have provoked your displeasure, I confess such punishment is due to me as you shall ordain, and willingly will I endure it, to fashion me the better to your service wherein I would employ my self according to your appointment, although it were to fight against the gates of Death; whereto I gladly could afford some proof, so please your Highness to enjoin me such a task, as may express my zeal and forwardness. And that you may know the name of your voluntary servant, I am that Palmendos, who was since the hour of my birth destined to follow your virtues, humbly intreating to discharge your remembrance of any discontentment I have heretofore occasioned, in that mine own mind still persuaded me, I wanted worthiness to come before your Excellency.

The Emperour beholding him of such gallant stature, did not a little marvel at his rare perfections, wherfore taking him graciously in his arms, desired he would command any thing wherein he might stand him in stead, for he was not able to requite his high deservings. Afterward came Primalcon, and courteously entertained him; the like did Abenunco, signifying how much he was bound to him for his happy deliverance: then came Arnedes with the other Lords and Knights, all of them embracing the hardy champion that went away with the honour of the Journey.

By this time had Ozalio brought Marencida on horse, she wondering to behold such state and royalty, wherfore she desired to know the place of her landing. Madam (answered Ozalio) this City is called Constantinople, and among

among this flourishing troop of Princes, who have vouchsafed their coming hither to this Port, there may you behold the famous Emperour Palmerin, who is here in person to receive the King of Thessaly, and the worthy knight that delivered him from prison: your self likewise will esteem him a virtuous Prince, by the good entertainment you shall enjoy, when once he understandeth your state and calling; so that I hope you will not repent this voyage, were it but to have knowledge of him alone.

How miserable and unfortunate am I (quoth she) to fall into the mercy of my fathers capital enemy: how can my griefs but grow into an exceeding surplage? Alas I see the King Occurtes my husband the meeting will be with marvellous heart-break on either side, being both of us captives to the very worst enemy we have. The Emperour and his Lords kindly saluted her, but she would not once bode her self, or make any answer, whereto the standers by very much wondered, fearing her a woman of rough and unseemly behaviour, saying, nature might much better have made her a man. Mounting all on horseback, in most comely order they rode to the Palace, where the Emperours and her Ladies met them in the Court. To tell the courtesies, gratulations and welcome there used would ask a world of time, yet but little to the purpose: let it suffice then, they are so well entertained as you can any way imagine.

Palmendos taking Marencida by the hand, brought her to the Princess Philocrista with these speeches. I desire you Madam to accept this Lady into your company, and give her such good counsel as you can best devise, for she is descended of royal blood I assure you. For Palmendos (replied the Princess) I must obey what you command me, for the love I bear to you and your sweet friend: and I imagine my self fortunate, having such a precious gage from a knight so perfect; nor shall she be worse intreated then mine own self,

Marencida.



Marencida hearing these gracious speeches, and what courtesie *Palmendos* used to the *Princesse*, perceived that she was the Emperours daughter, wherefore she gave her many thanks, shewing better countenance then before she did to any: which *Philocrissa* took very kindly, and mounting up the steps with her into the Hall, she came to *Francelina* with these words. This Lady, (*Madam*) doth now supply your place, seeing *Lord Palmendos* is returned, for now your company with me must discontinue because reason and your fatal love doth so command me, notwithstanding, I hope our omits shall continue.

State *Princesse* (answered *Francelina*) we are both so far yours, and so good part have you in my *Lord*, as you shall find your self no lesse contented then abashed when you know all: therefore fear not that I will forget your friendly familiarity, rather will I continue your loving sister, as our further assurance of our mutuall agreement. Doubtless other speeches passed between the two young Ladies, in mean while *Marencida* looking about her, and remembering the great pomp, state and riches of her father, she made but slender account of the Emperours Court, which was not at this time so well storied with knights as it was wont to be, whereupon she giving a great sigh, thus uttered her mind.

You know, Emperour of Constantinople, that the sumptuous royalty of my fathers Court, doth exceed the greatest *Princes* in the whole world, as also how many mighty  *Lords* serve him with homage and fealty, because here, so far as you have seen the same; where if you were so adventurous and hardy, as to kill without fear of them (as the whole world knoweth) the mighty Emperour mine Uncle, think, I pray you, what miserable case the Lady is in, so trayterously brought from her own Country, and now delivered captive into your custody, wherein me thinks, in respect of the renown spread abroad of you, you should take example by my adversity, and rather grieve then glory therein,

therein, as I see you do, considering that inconstant Fortune is still variable, and doth not always allow men felicity. This I speak not, whereby to gain the more favour or honour in your Court, because death would be much more welcome to me, then to live in the vexation of mind I do: wherefore I intreat you again (if intreaty may be seem an adversary) hereafter to conserve your reputation in such sort, as I may receive no impeach to mine honour, and you shall comfort me better therein, then all the commendation of your fame can do.

To these words she added many full complaints, as the Emperour being therewith moved to compassion replied in this manner. I understand, *Madam*, full well what you have said, and know best, that the feminine choler which governeth your spirit, maketh you use such kind of language, as is clean exempt from all the rules of womanly modesty: nor am I now to learn, that the strength of earthly Kings and Potentates is less then nothing, when God is bent repugnant against them, whereby we are all to resolve that we can do no good act without his assistance.

According to his direction came I unto your Uncles Court, before whom I protest, and crave no mercy in the day of vengeance, if I knew him, or ever thought to do it, being too far carried away from minding any such intent, by the honour I had before received at his Highness hands. Yet was I pitie to his forcible detaining of the Lady, and laboured to restore her to her *Lord* and husband, she being daughter to the renowned King of England, and wife to the now famous Emperour *Trincus* of *Almain*: herein (me thinks) I committed no offence, he keeping her most unjustly, profaning thereby the sacred *Laus* of royal equity.

And because the wise have evermore patiently endured their fortune, being either good or bad, I verily perswade my self, *Madam*, that you will forbear to complain and lament

lament in this unseemly manner, knowing your self to be conquered by the most courteous and debonaire Knight that this day libeth in Europe, even he that in Hellespont overcame the King Ocurites your husband.

These news so grieved Marcida to the heart, when she heard the Emperour say, that the King her husband and she her self were both taken captiue by one Knight, as frantic-like she could have eaten her flesh with anger: but the young Prince Philocrista conducting her to her chamber, appeased her fury with diuers friendly speeches and courteous behauiour. But let us now return again to the Prince Palmendos, who in this time unarmed himself, th at the Emperour might at more pleasure behold him.

# CHAP. XXXI.

*What courteous conference Palmendos had with the Emperour, the Emperess, and Primaleon: And how being afterwards baptized, he was affianced to his Lady.*



After that Palmendos had put off his Armour, he threw a rich Turkish robe about him, embroidered all over with Oriental Pearls, which he brought from Tharus with him, according to the modern custome used among the most magnificent Kings of Asia, intending to wear it when he should come into the Emperours presence. Being returned into the great Hall and each one covetous to understand his Original, Primaleon took him by the hand, and satte down, when the Emperour began in this manner. My noble friend Palmendos, longer must you not conceal your self, your renown being so labishly bruited thjough all Countreys,

treys: tell me then. I pray you, of what parents you are issued, as also what you think else convenient to acquaint us withal.

Gracious Lord (answered Palmendos) with you whom I so reberence by honour, I may not dissemble in any point, for that I were unworthy your presence if I should deal double with so great a state. Know then mighty Emperour, that I am son to the Queen of Tharus, the affectionate servant and beloved friend to your Majesty, forsaking my Country by a strange occasion, so soon as I understood where my father remained, which long before was concealed from me. The cause of my coming into your Highness Court, was the fame and praises I heard of Francelin, to whose service the fatal destinies enjoyned me at my vergerence, in that I never affected any other Lady, yet repating my self unworthy of her grace and favour, or to be seen in this honourable Court. To this he added the discourse of the old woman that appeared unto him in the Hallace at Tharus, and how she blamed him for his idle and slothfull life; yet hiding how she assured him to be his son because farther opinion should pass till that were discovered. But (quoth he) as hitherto I have liued according to the Law of Mahomet, so now would I willingly receive Christian Baptism, which I faithfully promised for my good success, when heauen made me able to deliver this worthy Princess.

When the Emperour heard these things, he presently judged Palmendos to be his son, by the sudden and summary supposition he made of his age, and of the time he was in Pasmiria where the Queen his mother came so subtilly acquainted with him. Wastfull heresof he was, when he looked on the Emperess, as his vermillion colour plainly discovered, yet did he discreetly shadow the same: notwithstanding, the Emperess misdoubted somewhat, remembering her dream of the Queen of Tharus, and what the Emperour himself had told her before; yet made she no

them of any such matter, wisely governing her thoughts from outward suspicion, whereupon the Emperoz thus began again.

In sooth my especial good friend Palmendos, I now love and esteeme you much better then befoze, understanding that you are son to the Queen of Tharuis, who did me so great honour in her Countreys; her very name maketh me to remember my travels in those parts: So that I know not how to expze my joy, hearing your self so well resolved, to forsake the Ethnick paganism of your blasphemous Gods. Wherefoze I am thus advised, not to prolong so good an occasion, but to morrow you shall receibe the holy character of Christianity, and be likewise affianced to your Lady Francelina: for reason required herein to hasten your right, seeing for her you have endured such dangerous travels, and forsaken a Realm of so great Estate the riches and fertility whereof I am well acquainted withal.

The King and Queen of Thessaly were not a little glad, when they heard that Palmendos was heir to a Kingdome, but much moze was their joy, understanding his Original, whereof the Emperoz would not as yet make further inquiry, till he were better assured of the certainty: and good occasion falling out so well, as the Emperess, her Ladies, and every one departing to their chambers, leaving the Emperoz and Palmendos secretly conferring together, of matters concerning the Isle Delphos and such like; but at length his Majesty opened his mind, saying he imagined him to be his son, wherefoze he was desirous to be therein resolved.

In respect, my good Lord, (answered Palmendos) that truth must and will come forth at length, know then mighty Prince and my gracious father, that in the Realm of Palmyria, you begat me your son, the night befoze you departed from the Queen my mother; for she being advertised of your rare perfections, became impatient in her amorous

rous affections, and composed the mean of your acquaintance, by a charmed drink provided for that purpose. And here behold the effect of this action, my self your humble son and obedient servant, yet did my mother give me a further testimony hereof, having her self given you the like at her departure: but Francelina hath the same now in possession for to her I gave it after her deliberance: And evermoze she concealed this matter from me, till miraculously I was informed both thereof & as concerning Francelina, because she feared I would forsake my country, to come and serve in your highnesse Court. As concerning my behaviour since that time, somewhat I am sure hath happened to your hearing, yet of such small and slender value, as they neither becomed this place, or your person. The Emperoz ravished with conceit of this report, knew not which way best to signifie his joy, for considering the strange course of the action past, & what the successe thereof now proved, his spirits were carried away with wonderful imaginations.

Ah my noble son Palmendos (quoth he) full well am I assured of what thou hast said, although nature hath shaped thee not much unlike me, and given thee such herofcal courage as I had in my younger vates; and albeit the Emperess may wel be offended with me, when she shall be thus thyzowly resolved, yet is her wisdom and modesty such, as she will not dislike what I allow. With these words the Emperour took him by the hand, going with him immediately to the Emperess Chamber, and after his Majesty had kindly kissed her, he entred into these speeches.

I know wel Madam, that heretofore you have held good opinion of my loyalty, and that I ever loved you intirely, as your self could desire no better proof thereof; but the cause why I use these words at this instant, is a little scruple that long since entred my mind, and I fear will offend you when the same is known. Yet least further

doubts should trouble your thoughts, I protest before him who is the onely searcher of hearts, and I swear by all the divine assistants about his tribunal, that never with my will and knowledge did I contaminate our wedlock-bed, much lesse have I infringed the laws of marriage, or polluted the indolable faith I solemnly gave you.

Notwithstanding such hath been my former fortune, that another woman beside your self, by charms obtained what was your right, then must you not (Adam) be so severe and rigorous, as not to pardon me, seeing I have voluntarily confessed my offence, beside, the fault not proceeding from me delivers my cause to be more innocent.

Remember then Adam, what sometime you told me concerning the Queen of Tharus, your dream I perceive was not altogether in vain: in that she had such knowledge of me, by means of an enchanted drink I received unawares, as ingendred Palmendos this gentle knight. My Lord (answered the Emperess) with a smiling countenance at the first time I beheld Palmendos, I was perswaded what you have told me, so lively doth he resemble you in countenance and personage: wherefore I not onely pardon you, being ignorant of begetting such an excellent and perfect creature but thank heaven that you were the father to a son so famous. As for Palmendos, he shall now accept me as his mother, and I will love him no less then my own son Primaleon, with sundry other speeches were these joies confirmed, and Palmendos right lovingly embraced by the Emperess, at length Primaleon came, and he being thoroughly acquainted with the matter, took the Prince in his arms, thus speaking.

Wah the mighty governour of the heavens appointed, that the onely flower of chivalry should be my brother? wherein can I more honour that superexcelling beauty, then confirming my thanks to him by kinnesse to the worthy copartner of my vital blood, drawn from the self-same source where I received my original? Assure your self therefore

therefore my most noble brother, that Primaleon is vowed to imitate your rare fortunes, and treading the self-same steps you have done to eternize the name of our renowned father: continuing in the mean time, so ready at your command, as he that honoureth you with most most zealous affection. Might I enter the boldnesse (answered Palmendos) as to title you by the name of my brother, the second step of my desires were attained, and though I have not striven to coequal with you in kinnesse yet will I overpasse you in duty and affection: continuing the servant of Primaleons welfare, while the star of my birth-day vouchsafeth me breathing.

Here is occasion offered me of large discourse concerning the several salutations of the Courtly personages, so soon as this news happened in their ears, how the Lords and Knights came to gratulate this new come son, and the Ladies likewise striving to excel them in courtesie: but it were needlesse labour, considering the King and Queen of Thessaly concern this present occasion, and with their daughters for unite them altogether preparing for the religious observations, to be used on the morrow at the christning of Palmendos.

On the morrow the Emperour and all his Barons, mounted on horseback, the like both the Emperess withal her Ladies, and in most honourable manner they ride to this solemnity: so passing in this pomp through the City, they alighted at the Church of St. Sophy, where Palmendos was religiously baptized, and afterward affianced to Francelina by the religious Arch-Bishop, he being attired in as sumptuous ornaments, as when Andromache was espoused to the valiant Hector of Troy, or Cleopatra Queen of Egypt when she contended in magnificence with Mark Anthony the Triumvirate her husband, vntilking one of the pearls that hung at her ears esteemed worth two hundred and fifty thousand crowns. For even as the Carbuncle, the most rich and precious of all the oriental stones, both in the

the daye geve such a clear and illustrious splendor, as not onely illuminateth all the place, but also setteth the regar- pers eyes to wonder thereat: of no lesse vertue seemed Fran- celina in the Temple, as the onely and perfect Phoenix of her time. In like pomp and royalty they returned to the Pallace, there being such a sumptuous feast prepared, as becommed the time of so general resorting, where wanted no honourable debites to accompany the same. And du- ring the time of this their honourable pleasure, here think I good to pause a little, while you consider on the discourses passed, and I have more leisure to perfect the rest of this History.

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